



THE ORDER OF ST JOHN IN VICTORIA



OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

Amelia F Field DStJ

THE ORDER OF ST JOHN IN VICTORIA

Our first hundred years

The Order of St John in Australia
St John Ambulance Australia (Victoria), 98 York Street, South Melbourne, Vic 3205

Published 2004.

Printed in Melbourne, Australia by Superprint.
Cover by Igloo Design P/L.

© Amelia F Field DSJ
and St John Ambulance Australia (Victoria)

This book is copyright. Apart from any fair dealings for purposes of private study, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission.

Field, Amelia F
The Order of St John in Victoria : Our first hundred years

137 illustrations
Bibliography.
Includes index
ISBN 0 949569 48 8

1. St John Ambulance Australia (Victoria) -- history
2. Ambulance services -- Australia -- history
3. First Aid teaching and practice -- history
4. Order of St John -- history

AUTHOR'S DEDICATION

To my very dear friend, Thelma C.E. Peverill ("Pev"), whose valued friendship extends over some 63 years. We have shared good times and bad times but never has Pev's support and loyalty to me ever wavered. I am sure her confidence and trust influenced me to tackle many tasks I would normally have felt were beyond me.

Contents

	Page		
Contents	iii	Women's Auxilliary	98
List of Illustrations	iv	Rescue Squads	99
Preface	vii	Disasters	110
Foreword	ix	Communications	115
Acknowledgments	xi	Casualty Union	121
The Order of St John in Victoria		SJAB activities and duties	123
– Our origin	1	Annual Parade and Inspection	138
The Ophthalmic Hospital of the Most		Investitures	141
Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem	8	Tax avoidance scheme	142
Hospitaller and Almoner's Representative	9	Play-It-Safe	145
Linen Guild	9	Visitors	147
St John Ambulance Association	11	Centenary celebrations	153
Dr James Edward Neild	12	Publications	157
St John Ambulance Association		White Cross	159
in Australia	14	What of the future?	161
Sub-Centres	20	Appendix A Deputy Priors	164
Transportation	23	Appendix B SJAA Centre Committee,	
Visit of the American Fleet	28	Council Chairs and Presidents	165
The First Aid Volunteer Association	30	Appendix C SJAB Commissioners	167
The St John Ambulance Brigade	32	Appendix D SJAB District Surgeons	
Voluntary Aid Detachments	33	and Nursing Officers	168
Honorary Instructors Association	37	Appendix E SJAB District	
Brigade Structure	41	Superintendents Admin and Nursing	169
The Training Log	43	Appendix F Service recognition	170
Competitions	45	Appendix G Historical Section	176
Training Weekend – Monash University	48	Appendix H Biographical Section	187
Brigade Conference	53	Sister Dorothy Deveney	187
Experimental Family Division	56	Mr Trevor Macfarlane	190
Nursing Divisions	57	Mr Les Kuffer	198
Cadet Section	61	Miss Thelma Peverill	202
Interlink	71	Mrs Massie Davenport	207
Appeals	75	Mr Norman Billing	212
Assets – Real Estate	78	Mrs Pamela Paia	215
The St John Council	85	Reference notes	218
Specialist Section	95	Index	223
Airborne section	95		
St John Brass Band	96		

Illustrations

Illustration Page No.

HRH Queen Elizabeth II, Sovereign Head.....viii

March to St Paul's 1973, Dr H Jackson 1
 Capitular procession 1951, Col.Sherwin.....1
 Nurses marching to St Paul's, Ida Freeman.....2
 Dr Peter Bush and five Commissioners.....2
 Cadets entering St Paul's Cathedral 3
 Les Aris and Ashley Mason 3
 Dr James Edward Neild 1883 3
 Mr Lloyd Tayler 1897 3
 Sir George Stening and Sir John Kerr 4
 Sir John Kerr at the Competitions 4

To form a Branch of St John in Victoria 5,6
 A difficult task in the Railways Comps 7
 Another challenge 7
 The Broadmeadows team show how it is done.....7
 Horse-drawn ambulance at Eastern Hill 1903 8
 Motor ambulance in 1910 8
 Victorian Civil in association with St John 1916 8

First Aid Volunteers Association AGM 1915 9-12

First Aid Volunteers Association 1908 13
 Melb Metropolitan Division 1913 13
 VAD at Government House 14
 VAD march in St Kilda Rd, Fred Raven 14
 St John VAD Metro Division 1917.....14
 Association First Aid class in 1910.....15
 Winners, Railways Challenge Shield 1916 15
 Ormond Nursing Division new vehicle 1986 16
 Moomba march duty 1976 16

Dr George Mapstone and cadets 17
 Marilyn Watson, Colac, 1979 17
 Julie Healey, Dandenong, 1978 17
 Kitty Davies, Dandenong, 1977 17
 Sister Hilda Frost adjudicating 1974 Comps 18
 Sister Barbara Davis adjudicating 1974 Comps ...18
 Ormond Nursing won all events 18
 Dr Bush and Broadmeadows team 1978 19
 Dr Bush and South Melbourne team 1978 19
 Dr A Burton and Nursing Cadets 19
 Country Cadet Comps, Geelong West 1974 20
 D.Musselwhite, Colac 20
 C.Hall, Casterton 20
 Warrnambool team 20
 B.Bonarx, Senior Individual winner 20
 Corps Officer T Daly and Div Supt A Drayton 20
 Sebastopol Nursing Cadet team 20

Ballarat Cadets, winners of all sections 1960 21
 Lindy Boyd and Tim Toomey at London 1977 21
 Bev McMurtrie receives Warrant 21
 Cadet Proficiency & Grand Prior's Badges 22
 Mrs Reid with Lady Brooks inspecting cadets.....23
 Inauguration of "Interlink" 1976 23
 Presentation of Diamond Valley vehicle 23
 Fijian contingent at 1972 Jubilee camp 24
 Douglas Donald inspects WA contingent 24
 Ray Engblom and Archbishop Woods 24

Sir Benjamin Rank, Council Chairman 25
 Mrs Davenport and Dr Mary Irvine 25
 Mrs Ida Freeman 25
 Mr Free Strickland, Council Chairman 25
 St John Band, c1960 26
 Search & Rescue units at Portsea 26

Mrs Davenport, OIC Ormond Mobile Nursing 26
 Flying Fox rig 27
 Search & Rescue Training exercise, Portsea.....28
 Vehicles on road to Point Nepean 28
 Briefing the Control Officer 28
 Transport over rough terrain 28
 Simulated mine rescue 28

Search & Rescue Training exercise, Grampians ..29
 Grand Canyon 29
 Climbing the Elephant's Hide 29
 Abseiling 29
 Mobile Nursing abseiling, too 29
 Search & Rescue with injured patient 30
 Max Phelan with Waverley S&R team 30
 Plane crash at Mt Slide, 1971 30
 Search for Harold Holt 1967 31
 Point Nepean 31
 Southern Aurora derailment 1969 32
 Southern Aurora derailment 1969 32
 Southern Aurora derailment 1969 32

Sunbury Pop Festival 1972 33
 Swimmers in Jackson's Creek 33
 St John field hospital at Sunbury 33
 Treating a patient 34
 X-Ray unit at the field hospital 34
 Doug Iliffe at Radio Base 34
 Cadets at Government House late 1930's 35
 Parade at Government House late 1930's 35
 Motorcycle Division drive past 35
 Ida Freeman, Dr Burton and Max Phelan.....36
 Mr & Mrs D.Hein with D/O Gwladys Hulls 36
 Col.Bob Payne at Government House 36

Programme for Col.Sleeman 37
 Col. Sir James Sleeman, 1936 38
 D/Supt.E.Pippard with Princess Margaret 38
 Lady Mountbatten inspecting Nurses 38
 Cadets dressed as members of the Order 38
 Visit of General Sir Desmond Gordon 39
 Meeting D/Supt.Wilf Leversha 39
 Luncheon for General Gordon 39
 Jeannie Horner meets General Gordon.....39
 Premier Hamer launches "Play-It-Safe" 40
 Sir James Sleeman and Caulfield team 40
 The Victorian Motorcycle Division 1920's 40

Colonel George Horne 41
 Major-General Rupert Downes 41
 Colonel Alexander Sherwin 41
 Brigadier Sir William Johnston 41
 Major-General Sir Frank Kingsley Norris 42
 Colonel Douglas Donald 42

Lt-Colonel Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris	42
Dr Arthur William Burton	42
Dr Harry Jackson	43
Dr Peter Bush	43
Major-General Frank Poke	43
Dr Edward Brentnall	43
Herman Woess	44
Colonel Alexander Christie	44
Norman Billing	44
Max Phelan	44
 Roy Green	 45
Derek Bateman	45
Louise (Queenie) Peverill	45

Miss Edith Wells	45
Massie (Bobbie) Davenport	46
Thelma Peverill	46
Annis Crerar	46
Monica Green	46
Trevor Macfarlane	47
Dorothy Deveney	47
Leslie Kuffer	47
Pamela Paia (O'Brien)	47
Harry Pascoe	48
Professor Gerard Crock	48
Dr Bill Straede	48
Amelia Field with Sir Dallas Brooks	48

Preface

As Chancellor for the Priory of Australia, it gives me great personal pleasure to introduce and to recommend this publication to all members of St John in Victoria and indeed Australia. Amelia Field the author is a well known and respected member of St John Ambulance who has contributed so much of her time to the work of St John over many years. She has methodically and eloquently masterminded a wonderful collection of St John history and presented it in a way which will fascinate its readers. I would like to on behalf of The Priory of Australia sincerely thank Amelia for her dedication, commitment and stamina in piecing together a journey which will become a part of the history of St John for many years to come, congratulations!

Villis Marshall GCSU
Chancellor

Foreword

Millie Field and I became friends 24 years ago, after I had been invited to afternoon tea at the home in Camberwell that she shared with Thelma Peverill (better known as 'Pev' in St John circles). I was in Melbourne beginning the research that led to my first book on St John Ambulance, *A Century for Australia*, which was eventually published in 1983 to commemorate the centenary of St John Ambulance activity in Australia. The purpose of the afternoon tea was to quiz them both as I sought to know more about the organisation they had spent their adult lives serving.

Millie and 'Pev' were very old and wise in the ways of St John Ambulance. I was a novice, eager to learn but still ignorant. Tolerant of my lack of understanding, they patiently helped me become better informed. Three years later, after my book had finally appeared, Millie wrote a typically magnanimous letter complimenting me.

Over the years since then we have maintained an intermittent correspondence. I did not meet Millie again, however, until five years ago when I was back in Melbourne researching *The Zambuks*, another St John Ambulance book. To help me with my research Millie came to see me, bringing with her an early draft of the manuscript that became this book. With characteristic generosity, she made a copy available to me, and it proved very helpful in answering many questions I still had to ask about the development in Victoria of the St John Ambulance Brigade and Operations Branch.

In thanking Millie for her kindness, I said I would return to Melbourne again when her book was being launched. I had guessed that that might be in the next few months. Unfortunately, however, the manuscript was just beginning a series of adventures (and more than a few misadventures) that delayed its publication until now. My offer to visit Melbourne for the book launch still stands, and I eagerly await my invitation, but in the meantime I am honoured to have been asked to write this foreword.

What Millie has accomplished with this book, in the evening of her long, worthy life, when most of her original St John Ambulance friends have passed on, is truly remarkable. Few other members of St John Ambulance Australia (Victoria) could have done the job. They lacked either Millie's firsthand familiarity with the subject over many decades, or her encyclopaedic knowledge of her subject, or her dedication to seeing St John history in Victoria recorded, or the patience to overcome the misfortunes that befell the project, or the stamina to see it through to conclusion. I congratulate Millie for her fortitude in continuing on when people of lesser commitment might have abandoned the task.

As the Priory Librarian for the Order of St John, I am delighted that quitting was never on Millie Field's agenda because this book now joins a distinguished company. Its publication means that five of the eight State and Territory branches of St John Ambulance Australia have now published their own histories. This enables Australians, and in particular Victorians in the case of Millie's book, to appreciate the full scale of the contribution that St John Ambulance has made in protecting their health and wellbeing since the Victoria Centre of the St John Ambulance Association opened shop in Melbourne 121 years ago.

I commend this book to the reading public. Among that vast constituency I urge all present St John Ambulance members, especially the Victorians, to read it. The latter, I know, will gain much from understanding better the legacy of community service that earlier generations of St John workers in Victoria have passed on to them. Millie Field deserves their gratitude for having persevered so that they might know more of their proud heritage.

Ian Howie-Willis
Priory Librarian
Order of St John in Australia
Canberra
February 2004

Acknowledgments

In presenting this brief history of the Order of St John in Victoria, I would like to acknowledge with thanks and sincere appreciation the assistance of the many members of our organisation who supplied essential information and gave practical assistance. I am deeply indebted to my friends, the late Evelyn Hunt, Thelma Peverill and Kaye Woods who willingly gave me help and support and showed great tolerance and patience with me at all times.

These pages have emerged from my promise to Dr. Peter Bush that I would try and research the history of our organisation. My thanks go to him for his never failing encouragement and for the time he devoted to reading material as it came to hand.

It is unfortunate that it has taken so long to publish this record of the Order of St John in Victoria, the writing of which was completed in 1986. There were many obstacles to overcome, a major one being computerisation of the text.

Gratitude is extended to all who supplied information or contributed material items of great interest but it would be impossible to thank them personally, however I would like to especially mention the following for their practical help and guidance.

Sister Monica Green who, over many years, kept a watchful eye on activities concerning the history and reported regularly to Council on its progress.

Peter and Lennis Burke who, a few years ago, were responsible for reviving interest in this history, Peter having volunteered to computerise the text. The many hours of work devoted to this task raised hope that the history would eventually be printed.

Jack Blackstock, a member of the St John Historical Group, made an invaluable contribution to this project. He continued to work on the computer after Peter and Lennis had found it impossible to continue and also familiarised himself with the procedure and requirements for the inclusion of photographs. Jack was already very busy helping to set up a Museum Section of the Order of St John, but still accepted the challenge to utilise his time and knowledge for the benefit of the history.

Dr Allan Mawdsley who recently joined the team with a view to bringing both projects to a satisfactory conclusion in the not too distant future. Allan's in-depth knowledge of computers, photography and the printing and publishing of texts gave our efforts a tremendous boost, while his aptitude for "getting things done" was remarkable.

Dorothy and Marion Bache both of whom made a significant difference to this project as a great deal of time was saved by their personal skills so generously made available in computerising and editing the text.

The CEO, **Sue Renkin**, for her cooperation in making staff and equipment available for the work on this history and her overall interest in its completion.

Norman and Kaye Woods who made an excellent job of printing out the index of personnel mentioned in the text. A difficult task which few would undertake.

Thank you all very much.

My long association with the Order of St John and participation in many of its activities made it possible for me to relate personally to much of the material researched but I have made every effort to reproduce facts as truly as possible. Readers will realise however that the history has been put together as a series of chapters and events and, in order to maintain continuity of a subject, it became necessary at times to repeat information. For this, I apologise.

I trust you will receive pleasure and satisfaction on reading this record of the growth and service of the Order of St John in Victoria.

Amelia F. Field, DStJ.



**Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II
Sovereign Head of the Order.**

The Order of St John in Victoria

Our Origin:

Many volumes have been written concerning the Knights of the Order of St John and their activities over hundreds of years. However, as this publication is to be a record and history of the Order in Victoria, Australia, it will be confined to the origin of our Australian organisation, which from the year 1883 is traceable to England.

In these modern times we are inclined to accept the Order of St John as it is today, a peace-loving organisation set up to help others in distress. The attraction and excitement of battles fought in defence of the Christian Faith and for other good reasons ceased, so far as the English Langue or Tongue of the Order was concerned, when Napoleon Bonaparte took possession of the island of Malta in 1798, thus virtually ending the English militant section of the Order. Those Knights who survived Napoleon's invasion fled the island, many of them eventually reaching their respective country of origin – humiliated by the loss of Malta, penniless because the wealth and properties they had acquired were confiscated by Napoleon.

A great deal of organisation was involved before the Order of St John became the highly respected institution with which we are familiar. While the glamour of earlier years may be absent, the re-establishment of the Order in England, which took many many years to achieve, is not without interest and excitement. Let us also be aware that the English Tongue or Langue existed throughout several monarchical reigns when political intrigue, personal ambitions, greed, and religious fanaticism were dominant factors influencing the country. A

brief look at what transpired in England will no doubt foster a feeling of pride in the efforts of dedicated men and women loyal to their vows and commitments.

In those early years religion played a very important part in the Order of St John. In fact, the mottoes of the Order, "*Pro Fide*" (for the Faith) and "*Pro Utilitate Hominum*" (for the service of humanity), ensured that its importance and significance would be recognised and upheld by every member of the organisation.

The main Christian religion in the western world (including England) was Catholicism and the Pope wielded a strong influence over the affairs of the Order. The Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, called of Rhodes, called of Malta, known simply as the Sovereign Military Order of Malta is acknowledged as the true parent of the organisation. It was moved in 1826 from its Convent at Catania, on the east coast of Sicily, to Ferrara in the Papal States and, in 1834, was transferred to Rome where it has remained.

King Henry VIII occupied the Throne of England from 1509-1547. As the Catholic Faith was that of England, Henry and the Pope (two strong-willed, powerful leaders) became very good friends. However, when the Pope refused to sanction a divorce sought by Henry from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, to enable him to marry Anne Boleyn, the friendship between these two men ceased.

Henry was beside himself with rage and cunningly found a solution to his problem. In 1534 he established the Church of England, with himself acknowledged as its Supreme Head, and an Act was passed abolishing Papal authority. He was then free to obtain his divorce and the desired marriage to Anne Boleyn proceeded.

The Hospitallers of the Order of St John, despite the fact that they were trained to take up arms to defend themselves and their properties when occasion demanded such action, never failed to fulfil the second part of the Order's motto ("Pro Utilitate Hominum"), setting up hospitals wherever they were domiciled for the treatment of sick or injured persons and caring for the poor and needy of the community. Being members of a Catholic Religious Order, the Hospitallers in England became a target for the vengeance of King Henry VIII against the Pope.

In the year 1540 he dissolved the Hospitallers in England and confiscated all their property. True to their vows of loyalty, Knights of the Order were not prepared to observe the changes being forced upon the people of England, but Henry had the authority and power and many Knights were either thrown into prison or executed. A number left the country altogether.

When Mary Tudor, a devout Catholic, became Mary I, Queen of England in 1553, being well aware of the religious changes which had been made by her father and the dangers associated with opposition to them, nevertheless was determined to restore Catholicism to England. Observing great caution she had reformers imprisoned and former Catholic Bishops reinstated.

In 1557 the Order of St John enjoyed a brief revival during the reign of Mary I but, when Elizabeth I came to the Throne in 1558, she reverted to her father's reforms and the religion for the country again became that of the Church of England. All the property belonging to the Order of St John was sequestered by the Crown. Although she took their estates and plate, the

Queen did not remove their title which meant that a Priory of the Order of St John could still exist in England without any laws or regulations being broken or infringed.

Almost 300 years passed before a group of French Knights, with their own interests at heart, made an effort to overcome the passive state into which the English Hospitaller Tongue of the Order had fallen, eventually gaining an enthusiastic response. As a result, having complied with all the formalities relevant to a revival of the English Tongue of the Order, on the 29th January 1831, the Reverend Dr Sir Robert Peat, Chaplain to King George IV, was elected Grand Prior of the Order of St John in England.

So that further support and strength would be given to their efforts for readmission to the Sovereign Military Order of Rome, the Reverend Dr Sir Robert Peat, on the 24th February, 1834, in the Court of the King's Bench at the Guildhall in London, before the Lord Chief Justice of England, Sir Thomas Denman, took the Grand Prior's Oath, this being a requirement of the Charter of Queen Mary I which was never revoked.

The English Tongue, now being a Protestant Order, was not welcome in Rome and, after many years of negotiation without a definite decision being reached, it was with disappointment and dismay that, in 1858, the English Knights were advised that the authorities of the Sovereign Order in Rome refused to consider reviving or recognising the English Hospitaller tongue of the Order, religion being one of the main stumbling blocks.

The English Knights then made the momentous decision to form a completely new organisation of their own, an independent English Order free to develop its own policy and administer its own affairs. This new Order therefore grew from the failed attempt to restore the English Tongue of the Ancient Order. On St John's Day 1858 "The Order of St John of Jerusalem, Anglia" was publicly proclaimed. It was properly constituted with its

own Master controlling it, management of its affairs being the responsibility of a Capitular Commission, with a Chapter to institute and oversee its policies.

Much thought was devoted to the role the Order would fulfil so that it would again become a recognised institution of England, earning the respect and support of the people. In view of the fact that the Order of St John had been dormant in England for a very long time and that its very existence would be unknown to the vast majority of English families, it was essential that this state of affairs be remedied without delay. Numerous suggestions were considered until finally it was decided to continue the work which Hospitallers of St John had so meticulously carried out throughout the centuries, thus not only providing a humanitarian and charitable service to the community, but faithfully observing the second part of the Order's motto "Pro Utilitate Hominum" ("for the service of humanity").

It was now time to decide on details governing the organisation and under the expert guidance of the Duke of Manchester who was elected Grand Prior of England in 1861, great care was taken in drawing up a Constitution to cover the activities of this newly formed English Order of St John. Finally, in 1871, the draft Constitution was accepted. It has stood the test of time and differs only slightly from that in use today.

Bringing the new Order of St John into being was a mammoth undertaking and the efforts of four men who accepted this challenge should be recognised. They were well educated, had good social backgrounds and a great deal of practical experience. Also they were enthusiastic, possessed leadership qualities and had the energy and vitality to keep things moving. Above all, they were dedicated to their task. They were:-

1. Sir William Drogo Montagu, 7th Duke of Manchester, who held the position of Grand Prior for a period of 27 years. His expertise and experience provided sound guidance for

the organisation which, under his direction, continued to expand and grow, he being ready to accept and try out new ideas if they were feasible and represented progress for the Order.

2. Sir Edmund Lechmere, a dynamic personality who served as Secretary-General for 22 years and ably supported the Grand Prior. A man well experienced in many areas, his activities including politics, banking, agriculture, and matters of historical interest. He was an Officer in the Worcestershire Rifle Volunteers and was also a highly regarded member of the Worcestershire Rowing Club.
3. Sir John Furley was a student at Harrow where he studied law but, at heart, he yearned to be a soldier. Frustrated in this by his parents, eventually, during the Danish-Prussian War, he experienced the rigours of the battlefield and proved himself to be a man of resource and courage.

He was greatly concerned as he observed at first hand the lack of medical aid and facilities for wounded soldiers and, on his return to England and the renewal of his association with other members of the Order, became interested in the activities of Henri Dunant of Switzerland – a great admirer of the work of Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War who was endeavouring to organise Red Cross Societies in various countries. As a result, Sir John Furley represented the English Order of St John at several international meetings arranged by Henri Dunant from which the Red Cross Society, as we know it today, emanated.

The Franco-Prussian War of 1870 and the Civil War involving the Paris area which followed, highlighted the fact that, while the Red Cross made available to both sides medical necessities, clothing and blankets, no provision was made for the treatment of casualties.

It was realised there was a great need for civilians to be trained and organised in times of peace so that expert attention would be speedily available to cope with casualties following any major emergency.

In view of the fact that, although England was a highly industrialised nation relying heavily on its mining, pottery and textile interests for revenue, no thought had ever been given to the safety and medical needs of those employed in these vast industries. Tragically, many lives were lost unnecessarily when major disasters occurred. What better time could there be to bring the humanitarian side of the Order of St John to the fore?

4. Colonel Francis Duncan was a career soldier from Aberdeen, Scotland. His education at the Grammar School and the University of Aberdeen admirably fitted him to become an outstanding leader of men, a military historian of note whose publications were held in high regard, and a brilliant orator who eventually became a Member of Parliament.

He was a great humanitarian and while in charge of soldiers at a Garrison in London, realised their life style was very limited so opened a Coffee House at the Garrison. This enabled the men when off duty to relax in a social atmosphere and enjoy a healthy alternative drink to the cheap grog they usually consumed. He also introduced religion to their lives.

Although Colonel Duncan was interested in many activities which were being promoted to improve conditions for members of the community, he was still not satisfied with his contribution to society. It was at this time he felt that the Order of St John appeared to have many possibilities for future development and in 1875 he became a Member of the Order.

These four men could not have chosen a more favourable time to come together as a team. The

country was in a state of turmoil, industrial unrest was rife and Reformist groups were actively engaged in efforts to improve conditions for the community generally and specifically, for working class families whose life styles left much to be desired. Public Meetings, at which many health topics were discussed, were arranged by the Order of St John and these resulted in a Medical Sub-Committee being formed.

In July 1870 the Order developed the British Red Cross from the 'British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded' which it had previously sponsored. When the Franco-Prussian War began Sir John Furley, who jointly commanded the Anglo-American Ambulance Unit, was joined by many members of the Order who wished to assist.

The war stimulated thought regarding the treatment and transport of casualties. In 1872, one year after the cessation of hostilities, the Order gave £100:0:0 towards Britain's first Ambulance Service. This was a private enterprise set up to serve the Staffordshire Potteries. The ambulances used were two-wheeled stretchers called 'litters', these being pushed along by attendants. However, in 1875 the Order produced a 'litter' of its own design which was known as the 'St John Ambulance' and this proved a great success.

It was now time to consider treatment as well as transportation of casualties so, in 1872-73 the Order began teaching lay people how to handle conditions and injuries with which they could be confronted. This resulted in the Order forming an Ambulance Department in 1875 with Colonel Duncan becoming its Director in 1876.

1877 was a very important milestone relevant to the new English Order of the Hospitallers of St John for the first of its 'foundations' – The St John Ambulance Association – was formed. Its purpose was to train men and women to cope with sick and wounded casualties resulting from 'industrial' wars or major emergencies, and to provide backup personnel for the Army Medical Corps when the need arose.

Public classes of 'Aid to the Injured' were quickly set up by the St John Ambulance Association, instructors being obtained from London's teaching hospitals, while Colonel Duncan's Ambulance Department taught the members of the public who enrolled the art of using a triangular bandage, a stretcher and a wheeled 'litter'.

Examinations were conducted at the conclusion of each course for which a certificate was issued to successful candidates, this certificate requiring renewal after each twelve months. It was decided by the Association to offer an incentive to students and to issue them with a medallion after passing two re-examinations. The popularity of these classes increased with the passing of time and the range of subjects for classes expanded to include topics such as 'home nursing and hygiene'.

There was now no question that the Order of St John had established itself into the lives of English families and was very highly regarded in the community. It was in the year 1882 that the Order received Royal approval when seven ladies from the Royal family were given instruction in 'Aid to the Injured', were examined and presented with certificates.

Also in 1882 people trained in first aid began to form groups called 'Ambulance Corps' thus providing a voluntary service whereby ill or injured persons could be transported to hospital. Two-wheeled 'litters' were originally used but these were later replaced by horse-drawn ambulances which Sir John Furley designed and built in 1883.

In 1882 the second Foundation of the Order was established. This was the opening of the Ophthalmic Hospital of the Order of St John in Jerusalem by Dr.J.C.Wardell. The hospital was situated near the Jaffa Gate and began its work as a four-bed hospital treating patients suffering from the various eye diseases prevalent in Palestine. It proved a very successful venture and a chapter in this publication has been devoted to recording details of this remarkable hospital. The efforts and ability of Sir Edmund Lechmere brought his bright

idea of continuing the work of the early Hospitallers in the Holy Land to fruition and thousands of people have benefited from it.

The third Foundation of the Order was the creation of the St John Ambulance Brigade in June 1887 whereby uniformed, volunteer, trained first aid members were now available to officially undertake public duties. This Branch was the natural progression from the Ambulance Corps set up five years previously and like the previous two Foundations, proved a very successful undertaking.

On the 14th May 1888 Queen Victoria granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation to the new English Order of St John, recognising the excellent work of its members and acknowledging the establishment of the St John Ambulance Association. Queen Victoria now became Sovereign Head and Patron of the Order; Edward, Prince of Wales, became its Grand Prior, while his son, the Duke of Clarence, became the Sub-Prior. With the granting of a Royal Charter and the Queen as the Sovereign Head, the Order indeed became a noble Order in its own right.

Throughout the ages, despite fluctuating fortunes, the Order has survived and now functions on the basis of three Foundations: the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade. It is in their hands to uphold the traditions and standards of their forebears and to observe the mottoes of the Order, 'Pro Fide' and 'Pro Utilitate Hominum', "For the Faith" and "For the Service of Humanity".

The Order of St John inherited and has maintained certain ceremonial traditions epitomised by the wearing of Tudor hats and capes bearing the emblem of a white 8-pointed cross. These are worn on special occasions, the most public being on the nearest Sunday to 24th June when St John's Day is honoured.

In the State where the Priory meeting is being held, Capitular processions into the Cathedrals of

Australia's capital cities are led by bearers of the Priory Cross, the Standard, the Ceremonial Sword, and the "Queen's Beasts" - silver replicas of a lion and a unicorn - proudly resting on their velvet cushion. The symbol, "the Queen's Beasts", originated in 1888 when Queen Victoria granted a Royal Charter to the Order. The use of "the Queen's Beasts" is restricted to organisations in which the ruling Monarch is involved and it is a great honour to have the privilege of displaying these outstanding emblems of the Order on ceremonial occasions. The uniforms of Brigade members carrying the insignia of St John are also proud reminders of the Order's heritage and command deep respect. However, the most valued tradition has been that of Christian charity, the basis of all service offered by the Most Venerable Order of St John.

Several Orders exist in Australia which have adopted names normally accepted by members of the public as relating to the Order of St John. Of these, the 'Knights of Malta', the 'Knights of St John' and the 'Knights Hospitaller' are representative.

As much confusion has been created in the minds of both the public and many of our own members, it seems appropriate that an effort be made here to clarify the position. Without dwelling on too many historical details, the following facts are of interest:-

1. Only one Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem was founded in the 11th century and incorporated by Papal Bull in 1113. There can, therefore, only be one genuine Order.
2. The Knights of St John did not return to Malta after it was taken by Napoleon in 1798. During the next two or three years, when the Knights were scattered and the Order in confusion, a strange event occurred which has ramifications today.

Tsar Paul I of Russia offered sanctuary to the Order and installed himself as head of the

Order following an irregular election to that position, but was never the legal Grand Master. He also founded a Russian non-Catholic Grand Priory.

On succeeding his father in 1801, Alexander I abolished the Priory and presented the Grand Master's regalia and records to Giovanni Tommasi, a man chosen by the Pope, who was elected by the Priorities of the Order and accepted by most European countries as Grand Master.

A number of so-called Orders of St John which have appeared in recent years in the United States and elsewhere, claim their origin from this brief Russian interlude.

3. Since 1834, the Headquarters of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta, have been in Rome. It is recognised as a Sovereign Order by many countries and is responsible for the maintenance of many hospitals, leper institutions, laboratories and dispensaries, while children benefit from Ambulance Corps Centres. Many other charitable activities are supported.
4. It is indisputable that the parent body of all legitimate Orders of St John is "The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta" (abbreviated to the "Sovereign Military Order of Malta" or "S.M.O.M.")
5. Henry VIII at the Reformation suppressed the English Priory of the Order but, in 1888 Queen Victoria established a separate, non-Catholic (ie: open to all Christian faiths) British Order by Royal Charter.

Her Majesty the Queen is Sovereign Head of this, "The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem", and HRH The Duke of Gloucester is Grand Prior.

6. Three other legitimate and recognised non-Catholic Orders of St John exist in Europe. They are the Johanniterorden of Germany, with its headquarters in Bonn, the Swedish Order of St. John, and the Netherlands Knights of St John. The latter two are part of the Johanniterorden, all being established by their respective Sovereign Heads.
7. To strengthen the effectiveness of the work of St John generally, without undermining individual independence under their respective Sovereign Heads, a "Convention of Alliance" was signed between the four Orders in 1961.
8. In 1963 a "Joint Declaration" was signed by the then Lord Prior of the Venerable Order (Lord Wakehurst) and the Grand Chancellor of S.M.O.M., confirming the independence of each, but acknowledging historical links and certain traditions.
9. The Most Venerable Order fulfilled a bridging role between the S.M.O.M. with the "Joint Declaration", and the three Protestant Orders of St John through the "Declaration of Alliance".
10. Finally, there are but five legitimate and accepted Orders - the original Sovereign, Catholic, and International Order and four reformed, non-Catholic Orders which resulted from the Reformation.

Other Orders of St John are not recognised by the Alliance Group of Orders, many being operated as business ventures with the raising of money as their objective. Public figures are often persuaded to accept their honours and awards, which are presented in colourful ceremonies of investiture, usually attracting media attention.

The Ophthalmic Hospital of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem:

Records maintained over many centuries show that the Hospitallers of the Order of St John never lost sight of their original responsibility to provide shelter and care for the sick and needy, regardless of class, race, or creed. Circumstances compelled many changes of location, but wherever the Order established itself the first major task was to establish a hospital.

The Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem was formally recognised in A D 1113. While details of its work, its triumphs and its failures make impressive and fascinating reading, sufficient here to state that the rise of Islam caused the hospital to be removed from Jerusalem to Acre, then successively westwards to Cyprus (A D 1291), Rhodes (A D 1310 -1522) and finally to Malta (A D 1530). The Order was driven out by Napoleon when he occupied Malta in 1798.

In 1882 the Grand Priory in the British Realm, inspired by its ideals of hospital services and mindful of its historical ties with the Holy Land, decided to again establish a hospital in Jerusalem. Even while plans for the hospital were being made and negotiations entered into, it was decided to devote the work of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem to the treatment of eye diseases which are so prevalent in the countries of the Middle East.

The Sultan of Turkey reacted enthusiastically when approached about the building of an Eye Hospital and granted a site on the Bethlehem Road immediately south of the Old City. When

established, this hospital was unique in that it was the only facility in the Middle East specialising in eye care.

During World War I the hospital was captured by Turks who used it as an ammunition depot and, on retreating, blew it up. However, it was repaired and reopened by Field Marshal Lord Allenby in 1919.

In 1948, at the end of the British Mandate, Jerusalem again became a city of unrest, caught in the middle of a civil war between Israel and Jordan. It was a time of apprehension and uncertainty for those at the hospital, for the fortunes of war changed rapidly and it was difficult to know which country was in command of the area. In view of the hospital's dangerous location in the front line of hostilities, it eventually had to be evacuated.

Temporary premises were found in two adjoining houses which the Order owned in the Old City and, despite great inconvenience, the work of treating the sick continued there for a period of twelve years. The staff worked under very difficult conditions. During the last year for which figures were available, the records show that, despite the lack of space and facilities, more than 160,000 outpatients received treatment.

As the 'cease-fire' line frontier agreed upon placed the hospital on the Israeli side of the armistice line making it inaccessible to the Arab population who formed the bulk of its patients, the Order decided to rebuild in Arab Jerusalem on the Nablus Road.

The present modern hospital was officially opened in 1960 and the interest of the Government of Jordan, the Army, the Municipality of Jerusalem and the inhabitants of Jordan can be assessed from the fact that some 2000 people attended the opening ceremony.

The Jordan Army maintained full co-operation in the transportation of all the building materials and equipment from Akaba to Amman right up to the last moment before the opening. The catering for the garden party which followed was also undertaken by them, whilst their colourful military band gave much pleasure during the proceedings.

The Ophthalmic Hospital of St John in Jerusalem is considered to be one of the finest eye hospitals in the world today and has been well planned, with bright airy wards. It contains eighty beds, including nine private rooms, a theatre block of two fully equipped operating theatres separated by a sterilising installation, with anaesthetic rooms, recovery rooms and offices, complete with shower baths for the surgeons and theatre staff.

The outpatients' department is spacious and airy. When the weather is kind the patients, instead of queuing in the narrow street of the Old City, wait in the shaded cloisters which have been

characteristic of the hospitals of St John throughout the centuries.

The staff adapted at once to their new surroundings. Without any break in their busy routine, they accepted central oil heating in place of kerosene stoves, and electric cooking in the well-appointed kitchen instead of the primitive calor gas. Only the washerwomen persisted in bending down over their old wash tubs, leaving the electric washing machines and spin-driers neglected in a corner of the laundry.

All the facilities of an up-to-date hospital are now available to staff and patients. Combined with this achievement is the fulfilment of the Order's desire to establish a training venue for nurses. It is with pride that members of the Order throughout the world view the magnificent, practical culmination of ideas envisaged.

The hospital is a charitable institution, totally reliant on world-wide sources for support. It is in this regard that members of the Order in Australia keep in touch with the Ophthalmic Hospital as they contribute to its functioning.

Hospitaller and Almoner's Representative:

For many years the Hospitaller and Almoner's Representative in Victoria was Mr E.Ashley Mason who made annual appeals for financial support for the hospital and collected donations

which were sent by him to London. Mr Richard Bluck succeeded Mr Mason in this position in 1978 and it is now his responsibility to take care of the Hospital's interests in Victoria.

Linen Guild:

Throughout the world, ladies associated with the Order of St John were invited to form "Linen Guilds". The objective was to raise funds to

supply the linen needs of the Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

In Victoria, under the guidance of Presidents such as Mrs W.T.C. Straede, Dr Esme Anderson, Miss Leline Cairns Lloyd, Lady Newman-Morris, Mrs A Burton and many others, the Linen Guild members worked tirelessly at efforts to obtain funds. These funds were also forwarded to England for use on behalf of the Hospital. Many supporters of the work of the Victorian Linen Guild will have happy memories of social occasions such as Film Nights in the Theatre of the B.P. Corporation and at the Association for the Blind Centre, and of talks and other functions arranged on behalf of the Ophthalmic Hospital.

At a Committee Meeting of the Victorian Linen Guild in 1976, it was resolved to omit the word 'Linen' from its name and that in future, the group would be known as the 'Victorian Ladies' Guild'. This change was deemed necessary as defence levies and Custom duties had increased and because linen could be purchased more cheaply and suitably in Jerusalem.

It was also resolved that, in future, money raised by the Committee would be forwarded to the fund of the Priory in Australia to be utilised to send a doctor and a nurse to work in the Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, coming into line with other Guilds in Australia.

Fellowship:

Funds raised in Victoria are used to provide a Fellowship jointly sponsored by the Order of St John and the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists. The Fellowship enables an Australian doctor to spend one year working at the Order's hospital in Jerusalem. This gives the hospital access to the latest skills and techniques, and provides the doctor with a vast amount of practical experience crammed into one year. Articles published by recent recipients after their return to Australia are indicative of the success of this programme.

Another development in the utilisation of funds raised by St John in Australia is to bring Ophthalmic Hospital staff to Australia for refresher training and experience. The first participant in this programme was Dr Tuck Tuck, one of the Arab surgeons attached to the hospital who arrived in Melbourne in February 1982. He did post-graduate work for three months at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital under the supervision of Professor Gerard Crock, C.St.J., an

active member of the Order's Hospital Committee in Australia

It was interesting to note that a letter dated the 30 June 1985 from the Representative of the Hospitaller and Almoner appealing for funds states:

"Sister Coulthard from Victoria also had a most successful year at the Hospital and returned in April 1985. Her success has re-awakened interest in supporting an Ophthalmic Surgical Sister as part of Australia's effort to support the Hospital. This is likely to occur when suitable candidates are available rather than every year."

Thus, in the year 1986, the Order of St John is one of the very few charitable organisations which still carries out the purpose for which it was created centuries ago, that is, caring for the sick and providing the best facilities for their recovery.



March to St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, 1973, led by Commissioner Dr H H Jackson.



Capitular procession to St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, 1951, led by Col. Sherwin.



Nurses marching to church parade at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, led by Mrs Ida Freeman.



Dr Peter Bush (Victoria) and Commissioners from Tasmania, New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia at Priory Conference in 1975.



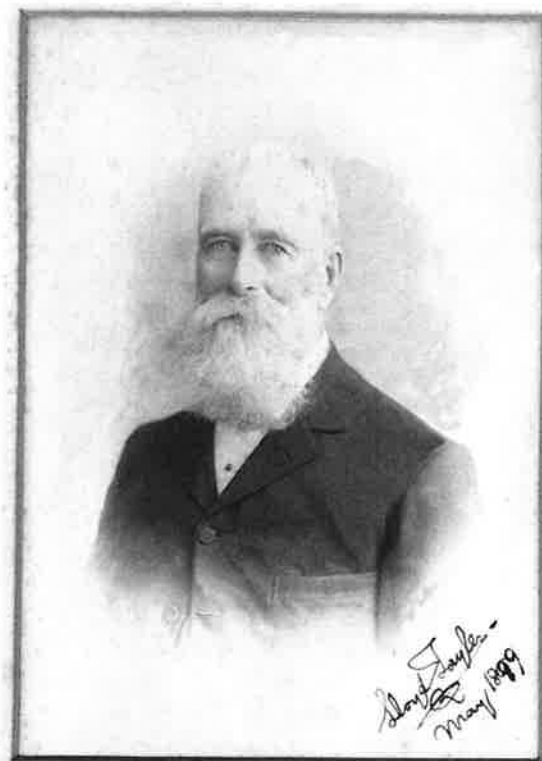
Cadets entering St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne for the Annual Church Parade.



Western Australian District Officer Les Aris and Chief Officer (Cadets) Ashley Mason



Dr James Edward Neild, the man who called the public meeting that founded St John Ambulance Association in Victoria in 1883.



Lloyd Tayler, President of St John Ambulance Association in Victoria from 1897 to 1901.



Chancellor, Sir George Stening, with Governor-General Sir John Kerr at Priory Chapter and Competitions.



The St John Ambulance Association:

The St John Ambulance Association was established in 1877 by the Duke of Manchester and the Chapter of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in England, for the purpose of making available information for the preliminary treatment of the sick and injured among all classes of society. It aimed to lessen unnecessary suffering frequently caused by the ignorance of unskilled persons who had first contact with a patient.

So successful was the work of the Association in the United Kingdom that, up to the 24th June 1882 (St John's Day) over 130 Centres had been formed and over 40,000 certificates awarded to persons of both sexes.

The work of the Association had by then been extended to India and France. In Russia, the Handbook of the Association had been translated into the native language and there, as well as in Germany and the United States, work along the lines laid down by the Association had been actively and successfully commenced.

Being aware of the population growth in Australia and the vastness of this Continent, the St John Ambulance Association wished to establish itself

in the Colony, thereby enabling improvements to be made in the handling and treatment of sick and injured persons.

In a letter dated 9th November 1881 from Major F Duncan, RA, DCL, LL.D., Deputy Chairman of the St John Ambulance Association, London and Director of the Ambulance Department, Dr James Edward Neild, a Medical Practitioner of Melbourne, was approached concerning the examining of students at the conclusion of classes of instruction in First Aid, for which a small fee of one guinea (£1:1:0) plus travelling expenses would be paid. Dr Neild's reply was acknowledged by Captain Herbert C Perrott, Chief Secretary of the St John Ambulance Association, who accepted Dr Neild's generous offer of gratuitous co-operation and advised that a quantity of material had been brought to Australia by Samuel T Knaggs Esq, M.D, of Newcastle, New South Wales, whom he would contact. A number of certificates for the Australian classes had been signed by His Grace the Duke of Manchester (Sir William Drogo, Seventh Duke of Manchester, Grand Prior of England 1861-1888) and were to be issued as required.

Dr James Edward Neild

What do we know of this man who gave so much of himself, his time and expertise so that others might benefit? A man whose name is familiar to many and whose achievements are talked about 100 years later.

James Edward Neild was born in Doncaster, Yorkshire, England, in 1824 and was the son of James Neild, a brewer. Having served an apprenticeship to his uncle, a leading medical practitioner in Sheffield, he subsequently enrolled at University College, London at the age of 23 to study surgery, paying the sum of £4:10:0 (\$9-00) and the College fee of 10/-. (\$1-00) In 1848 he qualified as Licentiate of The Society of Apothecaries.

Settling in London, he soon had a wide range of interests, including politics. He believed in the causes he supported and took an active part in agitating for their acceptance.

J.E. Neild, L.S.A., became Medical Officer to the Rochdale Dispensary where he cared for the families of the sick poor of the district. His outlook was always a progressive one and, as anaesthetics were introduced in 1848, the year Neild gained his Licentiate, he insisted on using anaesthetics for surgery. This, together with other innovations he instigated, brought him into conflict with the authorities at Rochdale and though he resigned, the Hospital Governors presented him with a case of valuable surgical instruments inscribed:-

“Presented by the Governors of the Rochdale General Dispensary to Mr James Edward Neild, for the zealous and faithful performance of his

duties as House Surgeon during a period of three years.”

A certificate expressing the confidence and approval of the medical staff was also given to him.

This young man then made another bold, brave decision. As gold had been discovered in Australia in 1851, he decided to try his luck and, in 1853 set sail in the “Star of the East” for Australia, settling first at Grafton, New South Wales, then travelling south to Victoria and the gold fields of Castlemaine. He was certainly infected with gold fever but, while he found little gold, he gained invaluable experience of the colonial way of life.

His devotion to medicine being so great, James Edward Neild then became a partner with a Mr Long as a chemist for a short time, and it was here that he met Susannah Maria Long, another member of that family, whom he later married.

As already stated, the interests of James Edward Neild were very diverse. He had a flair for writing and became a Reporter for “The Age” newspaper. Theatres were becoming established and he became Dramatic Critic for “The Argus”. He also wrote for “The Examiner”, “My Note Book”, “The Weekly Review”, using the pen name “Christopher Sly” for the minor papers.

In 1861, he gave up full-time journalism to become a freelance writer. He wrote frequently for the Melbourne “Herald” and assisted in starting Melbourne “Punch”, collaborating with Marcus Clark, Adam Lindsay Gordon, Kendall and others. He was Musical Critic for “The Argus”, for which he used the pen name of “Jaques” and claimed to

have discovered Melba, urging her to devote herself to singing.

He had a quick perception of value in acting and his opinion was highly thought of and respected by the actors and actresses of the day. Many were invited to the Sunday afternoon gatherings at J.E. Neild's home in Spring Street, Melbourne, where the most notable people from the medical, theatrical, literary and artistic circles were to be found. Neild's daughter-in-law, Lottie, said it was like being with Royalty to go to the theatre with Dr Neild.

Perhaps at this stage we could briefly look at the homes of this man, the father of eleven children, nine of whom survived him.

James Edward Neild and his wife Susannah made their first home at 165 Collins Street East, Melbourne, and called it "New Place". It was a two-storied white stone house, with an arched doorway and long narrow windows. Lister House now occupies this location. The doctor was living here when he founded the St John Ambulance Association. The Neilds later moved to 21 Spring Street and called their new home "Bilton House",** remembering Dr. Neild's mother who had been a Bilton. This was one of the lovely old terraced homes near the Treasury Gardens.

(** The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Planning Section has no record of "Bilton House" and assume it was demolished when the Treasury Gardens were extended.)

Being a leading member of the Medical Society of Victoria, to which he was admitted in 1861, he was appointed Librarian in 1863 and held that office until 1866, becoming Vice President in 1867 and President in 1868. He was then Librarian from 1870 to 1874 and, in 1875 became Honorary Secretary, a post he held for many years. He was also one of the founders of the Victorian Branch of the British Medical Association, the initial meeting being held in his house, and in 1882 was elected President.

Dr Neild contributed freely to the Australian Medical Journal and, in 1862, he was appointed Editor. As he held the position of Honorary Secretary of the Medical Society of Victoria and was also Editor of its Journal, he naturally exerted a strong influence on policy. His opinions frequently conflicted with those of his colleagues and, in 1879, he resigned from both positions.

He took the degree of M.D. (Melb.) by examination under special regulations then in force (1864) and devoted himself to medical practice. Shortly afterwards, in 1865, he was appointed Lecturer in Forensic Medicine by the University of Melbourne and was, apparently, an original member of the University medical school staff. He held this position until 1904, a short time before his death at the age of 83 in 1906. Dr Neild was also appointed City Coroner and his meticulous, accurate work was held in high esteem. He became closely associated with many criminal inquiries and his skilled evidence brought many good results.

Dr. Neild was one of the founders of the Shakespearean Society and became its President. He carried his love of Shakespeare into the lecture room at Medical School where, it was said, his lectures were always dramatic. He was immensely popular with students who were quite used to having him quote Shakespeare to them whenever opportunity permitted.

A man of this calibre who inspired loyalty and respect even from those with whom he disagreed, and who so strongly influenced both the medical profession and the community generally, would certainly command support for any project in which he interested himself. The authorities in England made a very wise choice when they asked Dr James Edward Neild to assist in introducing First Aid and the teachings of the St John Ambulance Association to Australia.

The St John Ambulance Association in Australia:

Copies of material brought to Australia by Dr Knaggs are held in the Archive records and it is interesting to note that the "Memoranda for the Guidance of Examiners" contains the following:-

"In the case of working people and others who cannot express their ideas sufficiently clearly in writing, the written answers may be dispensed with and the examination made entirely oral and practical, the examiner duly reporting the same."

The "Syllabus of Instruction - St John Ambulance Association. First Aid to the Injured - Index No.58" states : -

"Mixed classes of men and women are on no account permitted."

Dr Neild produced a printed circular dated Melbourne, June 1883, signed by himself and Richard B. Warren, F.R.C.S. I., of Bay Street, Brighton, in which he outlined the work of the St John Ambulance Association and invited support for a public meeting shortly to be held for the purpose of forming a Melbourne Branch of the Association. This was sent to 84 members of the medical profession, 26 other prominent citizens, and the editors of 8 newspapers, the list of names reading like a modern day "Who's Who".

This circular which gave much information, included the following: -

"Those who pass the Examination receive a certificate of proficiency, and Certificated Pupils who have twice undergone re-examination in accordance with the terms of Resolution of 25 July 1879 with an interval of not less than twelve months between each Examination, are exempt

from any further Examinations and allowed to purchase a Medallion (bronze, silver, or gold, at the pupil's option), to be carried in the pocket or worn as a brooch, or on the watch chain, but never as a decoration, and to be used when necessary as a certificate of competency to render First Aid to the injured.

Women who have passed the First or "Preliminary Course" are allowed to attend a "Second Course" consisting of Lectures on Home Nursing and Hygiene, and if successful in passing the examination for this course, are allowed to count this as a re-examination if the required interval of twelve months since the previous examination (or Re-examination) has been complied with."

The daily newspapers gave considerable publicity to the work of the Association and, in addition, cited instances where the knowledge of First Aid would have proved of great general benefit. "The Herald" on Monday 4 June 1883 stated:-

"It was only the other day that an unfortunate young man was seriously injured in Gippsland and had to linger in agony until he reached the hospital in Melbourne before the slightest assistance could be given to him."

A public meeting, to be held in the Town Hall, Melbourne at 4.00 p.m. on the 13th June 1883 was arranged by Drs. Neild and Warren and notices were sent to those interested who had replied to the initial circular. The meeting was called -

"to consider the expediency of establishing a Branch of the St John Ambulance Association and contingently to elect a Provisional Committee to organise the Association."

Melbourne, June 1884.

DEAR SIR,

It is proposed to form a Branch of the **St. John Ambulance Association** in Melbourne. This Association was established in 1877, by the Duke of Manchester and the Chapter of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, for the purpose of disseminating general information as to the preliminary treatment of the Sick and Injured among all classes of Society, so as to lessen the unnecessary suffering so frequently caused by the ignorance of those unskilled persons with whom the patient is first brought in contact.

By rough handling, or even the mere want of the slightest knowledge of how to lift an injured limb, a simple fracture may be converted into a compound fracture. The method of arresting bleeding from an artery is so easy that a child may learn it, yet thousands of lives have been lost, the very life-blood ebbing away in the presence of sorrowing spectators, because none among them had been taught one of the first rudiments of instruction of an Ambulance pupil—the application of an extemporised tourniquet. Again, how frequent is the loss of life by drowning, yet how comparatively few persons understand the way to treat properly the apparently drowned.

It is lamentable to reflect how many of these lives might have been saved, how much unnecessary torture might have been avoided, had those first present on the scene but known how to take the requisite steps for the restoration of life, or the alleviation of pain.

It should here be mentioned that nothing is further from the intention of such an Association than any undue interference with the province of the Surgeon. The object aimed at is merely the adoption of precautionary measures pending his arrival; and to testify how fully this is recognised, it is only requisite to point to the zealous and extensive support given to the movement by all ranks and classes of the Medical Profession.

The scheme of operations has embraced the formation of:

- (a.) *Centres* in important Towns and Districts, with an organization consisting of a Local Committee and staff of officials performing gratuitous service.
- (b.) *Detached Classes* held in Towns or Villages pending opportunity arising for the formation of regular Centres. A very large number of these Detached Classes have been held in all parts of the United Kingdom.

The Course of Instruction, which is limited to a syllabus drawn up by a Medical Committee, has consisted of five lectures (given gratuitously by medical practitioners), with intervals of a week between each, followed by an Examination. This last is conducted by one of the Examining Staff, all the Members of which, as well as the Lecturers, must be duly qualified medical practitioners. Those who pass the Examination receive a certificate of proficiency, and **CERTIFICATED PUPILS** who have *twice* undergone re-examination in accordance with the terms of the Resolution of July 25th, 1879, with an interval of not less than twelve months between each Examination, are exempt from any further Examinations, and allowed to purchase a Medallion (bronze, silver, or gold, at the pupil's option), to be carried in the pocket, or worn as a brooch, or on the watch-chain, *but never as a decoration*, and to be used when necessary as a certificate of competency to render first aid to the injured. Women who have passed the First or "Preliminary" Course, are allowed to attend a "Second Course," consisting of Lectures on Home Nursing and Hygiene, and if successful in passing the Examination for this course, are allowed to count this as a *re-examination* if the required interval of twelve months since the previous Examination (or Re-examination) has been complied with.

(OVER.

Invitation by Dr Neild to attend a public meeting to set up a Branch of St John Ambulance Association.

The extent of the work performed by the Association in the United Kingdom may be inferred from the statement that since its establishment, up to St. John's Day (24th June) 1882, over 130 Centres have been formed, and over 40,000 certificates awarded to persons of both sexes. The steady increase of the work is shown by the number of persons attending classes during the year ending on the above date, namely 10,741.

Among the more notable classes in the public services have been those for the instruction of the Metropolitan and City Police, County Constabulary, London and Provincial Fire Brigades, Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers, the War Office, Admiralty, Somerset House, and other Government Departments, the Custom House, East and West India Docks, Surrey Commercial Docks, Victoria Docks, and many of the Provincial Volunteer Corps. It is only necessary to add, as a further proof of the value of the movement, that several members of the Royal Family hold the offices of Presidents, or Patrons, of Country Centres.

The work of the Association has lately been extended to India and France, and in Russia the Handbook of the Association has been translated into the native language, and there, as well as in Germany and the United States, work, on the lines laid down by the Association, has been actively and successfully commenced. It is hoped, therefore, that it will be warmly supported in Australia, where there should be an exceptionally wide field for its work, on account of the great distances at which a large proportion of the population live from the nearest medical aid.

The Association has no connection with any of the associations or fraternities now existing for benevolent purposes, whether similar or not in name; nor is it allied with any religious denomination, but is thoroughly universal, embracing among its members and associates those who are willing to devote a portion of their time or their means to the help of the suffering and the sick.

It is proposed to hold a public meeting shortly for the purpose of forming a Melbourne Branch of this Association.

Should you be willing to attend, or in any other way to give the movement your countenance and support, will you kindly notify such intention to either of the undersigned, from whom further information may be obtained.

We are,

Your obedient servants,

JAMES EDWARD NEILD, M.D.

165 Collins-street East, Melbourne.

RICHARD B. WARREN, F.R.C.S.'I.

Bay-street. Brighton.

Second page of the invitation letter for the establishment of a Branch of St John Ambulance Association in Victoria in 1883. This was to be the first Branch in Australia.

The daily newspapers again gave considerable publicity to the movement, and "The Argus", of 14th June 1883, gave a full account of the meeting. Under the Chairmanship of Mr Coppin, MLA, and following an explanation of the steps which had been taken and the aim of the Association, which was to teach members of the public the skills necessary to enable them to act in cases of accident or emergency until the injured or affected person was placed under the care of a medical man, Professor Andrew proposed -

"That it is desirable there should be established in Victoria a Branch of the St John Ambulance Association."

This was seconded by Mr William Gillbee who was sure that the medical profession would heartily support the Society. The motion was agreed to, whereupon Mr Zox, MLA., proposed -

... "that a provisional committee consisting of the Mayor, Judges Cope and Quinlan, Messrs. Coppin and Zox, MLA s, Professors Andrew and Kernott, Reverend D.J. Hamer, Drs Jamieson, Neild, Warren, Blair, Henry, McCrea and R Robertson, Messrs Fitzgibbon, James, Gillbee, Archer, Panton, Lloyd Tayler and Byron Moore, be formed and is hereby appointed to draw up the rules of the purposed association, to be submitted to a meeting of members to be called at an early date."

Major Templeton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. Motions were also carried appointing Dr. Warren, Honorary Secretary and Mr. Zox, Honorary Treasurer.

Dr Richard Warren wasted no time starting his secretarial duties and, on 19 June 1883, issued a notice calling for a Meeting of the Provisional Committee of the proposed Branch of the St John Ambulance Association at the Hall of the Royal Society at 4.00 pm on Friday 22 June to consider the Draft of Rules and to make arrangements for a General Meeting to elect Officers of the Branch.

This Meeting, chaired by Judge Quinlan, was duly held and the Honorary Secretary reported the formation of a centre of the Association at Brighton. Among other business a letter from Mr H.F. Norton of Cowes, Phillip Island, was read. In this Mr. Norton expressed his willingness to establish a Centre of the Association in his district.

The General Meeting to consider the Rules and to elect Officers was called by advertisement.

This Meeting, held on the 26 June 1883 at the Athenaeum Hall, Collins Street, Melbourne, may be regarded as the formal inauguration of the Association. His Honour, Judge Quinlan, occupied the chair and Dr Neild proposed the election of the following office bearers for the first year:

Chairman	The Honourable George Coppin
Deputy Chairman	Judge Quinlan
Treasurer	Mr E.L. Zox, MLA.
Hon Secretary	Dr R Warren.
Members of Committee	Dr Neild, Mr Lloyd Tayler, Dr J.Blair, Mr W.Gillbee, Dr R.Robertson, Dr J.Jamieson, Mr W.H.Archer, Mr E.G.FitzGibbon, Professor H.M.Andrew, and Major Sargood, MLC.

The election of a President was deferred until the next meeting to enable Sir W.J. Clarke to be consulted as to whether he would accept the position. A newspaper report dated 7th July 1883 announced his acceptance of the appointment as President of the Association Centre.

Messrs. Coppin and Zox were deputed to wait on the Minister of Railways to request his co-operation with the Association so that facilities could be made available for the instruction of employees of the Railways Department in "First Aid to the Injured".

As a result, an article in a newspaper dated 11th July 1884 stated that 'the Railways Commissioners had decided upon a most desirable step, with a view to educating employees of the department in respect to the treatment of persons injured by accidents'. Details followed of a series of "ambulance" lectures to be given by Dr Richard Warren, of Brighton, in the Sailors' Home. This class was limited to 30 members, an examination would be held at its conclusion and successful candidates would receive certificates. Dr R. Robertson acted as examiner for this class and spoke highly of the practical work of members.

In a report to the Railways Commissioners, Mr Vines, who set up the class for Dr. Warren, recommended that all in the department, especially young men, should be afforded facilities for attending further courses of lectures. It was also recommended that vans of trains be fitted with life preserving apparatus or that a stock of first aid appliances be kept at various railway stations. In view of the fact that 170 persons were injured by railway accidents during the previous year and 300 during 1882, it was considered a necessity to have a good ambulance corps as part of the Victorian Railways system.

A newspaper article dated 9th January 1885 records that the Railways Commissioners had given authority to the Council of the Victorian Centre of the St John Ambulance Association to establish classes of instruction for railway personnel at

Spencer Street Station, Flinders Street Station, Geelong, Ballarat, Sandhurst, Kyneton, Maryborough, Ararat, Seymour, Wangaratta and Sale.

Under the favourable auspices and genuine interest of the Railway Commissioners, first aid instruction and practice flourished throughout the department and employees were encouraged to increase their knowledge and skill.

In 1931 the newly formed Railways Voluntary Aid Detachment No 359 entered a team in the St John Inter-Detachments First Aid Competitions and competed at the Voluntary Aid Detachments' Annual Inspection at Government House. The Railways team won the "Herald" cup and repeated this feat in 1932.

After a lapse of several years, the Railways Interstate First Aid Competition was revived in 1934, and the event was staged at Mount Evelyn - a small country town some 25-30 miles (about 40 kilometres) from Melbourne situated between Lilydale and Warburton.

Elaborate arrangements were made by the Victorian Railways Commissioners to ensure the success of the Competitions. A train, comprising several carriages drawn by a steam locomotive, was used to convey competitors and others from Melbourne to Mount Evelyn. A buffet car provided meals and refreshments, while certain compartments were utilised by Adjudicators to conduct the oral examination of competitors whilst in transit. Security measures were very strict and competitors were completely isolated throughout the entire journey.

The competition site was a partly cleared, partly timbered block of land at the side of the railway line. Rough cubicles were erected for the staging of events while teams, competing in the Improvised Section of the Competition, were able to cut and use timber for stretchers and splints when so required. On completion of the

Competition, everything was dismantled, packed and removed from the site.

The Railways Competitions were hotly contended by teams from the many ancillary services of the organisation (eg; Engineering Workshops, Electrical Workshops, Engine Drivers etc) from the various Depots in Victoria. The winning team was to represent the State in the Railways National First Aid Competitions.

On revival of these Competitions, the Victorian team was jubilant as it defeated competitors from other Australian States, became national champions and won the coveted Railways trophy.

Despite the fact that the Railways Department eventually set up its own First Aid organisation, a close and rewarding association existed between it and St John. Many railway men were Brigade members and, in the exchange of ideas, both organisations benefited.

Meanwhile, in Melbourne, the Brighton Centre of the St John Ambulance Association got under way and continued to flourish as it had over 80 members. A newspaper report dated 30 October 1883 stated that classes had been conducted, for both men and women, and that all the candidates examined had passed creditably. A copy of the printed examination questions used by Dr J.E. Neild for the Brighton class in October 1883 is held and no doubt represents the first St John Ambulance Association examination which took place in Australia.

The value of the Association was gradually being realised and Dr Duncan of Kyneton had forwarded to the Honorary Secretary an application for the formation of a Centre there. The Mayor of Sandhurst, Dr Bunce of Ballarat, and Dr Bage of South Yarra, had also offered to assist the work of the Association in their respective districts.

For a time, support for the work of the Association waned after the euphoria of founding wore off. As a result, in December 1884, a deputation waited

upon the Governor (Sir Henry Loch), and Dr Warren invited his support at a public meeting. The Governor was also asked to present the Association's certificates to successful examination candidates following the classes conducted at Brighton, and for railway employees at Spencer Street. Sir Henry Loch readily agreed, especially as he had been an active member of the Executive Committee in England, and Lady Loch had passed two examinations herself and held Association certificates for them. The Duke of Manchester, Lord Prior of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, who was present at the time of the deputation, said he would be pleased to be present at the meeting if he were in Melbourne at that time.

Notice of this meeting, at which His Excellency the Governor would preside, appeared in the "Argus" of 27th April 1885 and printed cards announcing same were sent out by the St John Ambulance Association, Victorian Centre.

Evidently this meeting had the desired effect. Newspapers report classes conducted by Dr Warren, and later Dr Wigg, for railway employees and the satisfactory results obtained and, in a letter to "The Age" dated 1st June 1885, Mr Lloyd Tayler, Chairman of the Council, advised that classes were being formed at Hawthorn, St Kilda, South Yarra, Fitzroy, Richmond, Kew, Williamstown, Hamilton and Geelong.

It was pointed out, however, that the expenses of the Victorian Centre devolved upon the twelve members of the Council who had to provide for its meetings, procure books of instruction and bandages from England, and maintain a stock of resource equipment necessary for the use of the various classes formed from time to time. Although these expenses were not heavy, they were constant and grew larger with the success of the movement. Mr Lloyd Tayler appealed to members of the public to lend support by either paying half a guinea annually to enrol as a member (which would entitle them to attend any one of the classes), or to make a donation. The cost of books and other materials furnished would eventually be

reimbursed from sales, but an amount of £100 was sought to assist the promotion of this work which was considered to be of inestimable benefit to the community.

The result of this appeal is not known but, at the Annual Meeting held at Selborne Chambers on the 25th May 1886, the Chairman, Mr Lloyd Tayler, stressed the fact that the Council was still experiencing financial difficulties having paid out £179:16:10 since the Association was formed. It was hardly satisfactory now, at the end of three years, to find themselves indebted to a bank to the extent of £30; a sum which members of the Council had personally promised to cover, if necessary.

In order to increase funds, the Council considered increasing the 5/- subscription necessary to become a member of the Association to 7/6d, (entitling the member to attend one course of lectures), and to charge the same amount as paid in England for those pupils who wished to attend a second or advanced course on home nursing and hygiene, viz: 10/6d. for the course of lectures.

Although the Commissioners of Railways had acceded to the Council's request that railway employees be instructed in the principles of First Aid, the Chief Commissioner of Police, on being approached to allow similar instruction to be given to members of the police force of the Colony, replied that the information already given to the police regarding the treatment of injured persons

was sufficient for their requirements. The St John Council pointed out how frequently accidents involved injury to people in public streets and that the amount of suffering caused to the injured by want of the knowledge of a few simple principles was lamentable. However, the Chief Commissioner of Police still considered any advantage would not counterbalance the great inconvenience and considerable expense involved in the attendance at First Aid classes by police.

The Council acknowledged that there was a large field in the Colony for the great work of the Association and that classes should be established at the large manufactories, mills, docks, mines, and at all large centres of labour; that instruction should be given to prison warders, the constabulary, militia, the different fire brigades, the cadets, as well as at all public and private schools. This is what the Council would endeavour to carry out and the delay in doing so to date was due to lack of public support.

Railway employees, who had so little spare time, were commended for their co-operation and the hearty way in which they had worked. The Chairman mentioned that the Council had experienced severe disappointments in connection with some of the classes, particularly in Ballarat, with regard to the question of funds.

Professor Morris moved, and Dr Caffyn seconded the appointment of the under-mentioned office bearers for the ensuing year:

President	Sir W.J. Clarke		
Chairman	Mr Lloyd Tayler		
Deputy Chairman	Judge Cope		
Members of Council	Sir Arthur Nicholson, Dr Springthorpe, Dr Robertson	Professor Andrew, Captain Evans, Dr Wigg, and Captain Paymer	J.Blythe, Dr Hewlett,
Auditors	Messrs. J Warne and A Potts		

Dr Neild evidently resigned from the Council of the Association towards the end of 1884 or thereabouts, although he continued to maintain an active interest. In a letter dated the 9th March 1887 from Charles B Payne, Secretary, Dr Neild was asked to examine a class of railway employees at Flinders Street Station on the 1st April. Dr Schlesinger had instructed this First Aid class.

A further letter dated the 20th April 1887 from Charles B Payne advised Dr Neild that, at a Meeting held the previous day, he had been unanimously elected a member of Council, replacing Dr Robert Robertson who had resigned.

Official correspondence at this time was being sent out on paper headed "Victorian Centre, 41

Selborne Chambers, Melbourne" with the Association logo prominently displayed on the top left-hand corner, and monthly meetings of the Council were held at this address.

In 1888, 41 Selborne Chambers was situated at 81 Little Collins Street. (North side). Suite 41 was occupied by The Royal Humane Society of Australia and Captain Payne, C.B., R.N., was its Secretary. The building is no longer there. With the new numbering system, 81 Little Collins Street, is now 462-464 Little Collins Street - near Kitz Lane. The building was still standing in the 1940s, but has since been demolished. It is now either a car park, or part of B.H.P.House.

Annual Demonstration:

In an effort to make the Annual Demonstration of the St John Ambulance Association during the last week of April 1888 a success and as interesting as possible, the Secretary, Charles B Payne, again wrote to Dr Neild asking for suggestions. He then proposed calling a meeting of all the medical men of the various Sub- Centres to discuss the suggestions and decide upon a programme. However, in a letter dated 25th April 1888, the Secretary advised that the meeting arranged for the 24th April had lapsed for want of a quorum. He was rather disheartened and in view of Dr Neild's influence with the press, sent the material on to him, in the hope that an article or subleader in "The Argus" newspaper would eventuate.

Despite the disappointment and early discouragement, every effort was put forward to make the evening a success. The Council of the Victorian Centre issued an elaborate printed invitation stating that, at 8 o'clock on Monday evening, 30th April 1888, His Excellency Sir H.B. Loch, K.C.B., would present Medallions and Certificates awarded by the Association during the past year, and that a demonstration would be given

by pupils, both men and women, in "First Aid to the Injured", and by the boys of the Church of England Grammar School in restoring the apparently drowned. As a reminder of the ever-present financial needs of the Association, the invitation advised that "a collection will be made". In a letter to Dr Neild dated 27th April 1888, Charles B. Payne enclosed a programme of proceedings for the Annual Meeting and requested that he be present at the Town Hall at 7.45 p.m. to receive His Excellency. Evening dress, with badge, was to be worn.

An invitation to Dr and Miss Neild to attend the Annual Demonstration on the 2nd September 1889 when the Governor, now Sir William Robinson, GCMG, would present Medallions and Certificates, is held in the archive records, as also are letters requesting Dr Neild to conduct class examinations between the years 1889 and 1897. This indicates his on-going interest and activity in relation to the work of the St John Ambulance Association. His loyal support is typified by the official Declaration of Allegiance he signed in Melbourne, Victoria on the 4th June 1895, on his

enrolment as an Honorary Associate of the Grand Priory of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in England.

Classes of instruction in First Aid as envisaged by the Council in 1886 have, within 100 years, come to be accepted as part of everyday life, and this reflects greatly on the untiring efforts of those early supporters of the Association.

It is also of interest to note that, for many years, First Aid has been included in the curriculum for

Victoria Police Force recruits. A specially orientated First Aid course has been adopted for use at the Victoria Police Training Academy at Glen Waverley and no recruit can graduate unless he/she is in possession of a current First Aid certificate.

Recognition is also given to the fact that, since First Aid classes commenced in 1883, they have continued without interruption ever since. This is yet another indication of the sound administrative abilities of the Council over many years.

Sub-Centres:

A report in the "Williamstown Advertiser" of 23rd October 1886 states that a Public Meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute with a view to forming a Sub-Centre of the St John Ambulance Association in Williamstown. The Mayor chaired the Meeting and regretted that a larger number of people had not attended.

Mr Lloyd Tayler, Chairman of the Council addressed the Meeting, stressing the advantages of having a knowledge of First Aid in times of emergency. Captain Payne, Secretary of the Association advised that since the Association was formed in 1883, until April 1886, 16 classes comprising 591 pupils had received instruction. Since the Annual Report had been published, 12 railway classes had been formed, viz two at Spencer Street, two at Flinders Street, and one each at Geelong, Ballarat, Sale, Maryborough, Sandhurst, Ararat, Kyneton and Stawell. Additional classes were forming at Sandhurst and Ballarat.

Mr Russell moved, and Mr Dempster seconded a resolution that a committee consisting of the Mayor, The Honourable W.H. Roberts, MLC, Dr Figg, Dr Honman, Councillor Lindsay and Messrs. Ivy, Dempster, Bird, Douch, J.E. Russell, Tyrrell, Ogilvie, Gill, Oldham and J.P. Hiddle be appointed.

The Sub-Centre at Williamstown was formed on the 18th October 1886.

During 1887 two Ambulance Corps were formed at Williamstown from certificated pupils of St John and these were the first Corps established in the Colony. The Superintendent was Mr Thomas Ivy of the Railways Department. Members of the Williamstown Corps offered their services to aid the military and naval forces in time of war, but the Defence Department had not, to that time, permitted these Corps to train with the military Ambulance Corps at a recent encampment to enable them to perfect themselves in the work.

At a later date, Ambulance Corps were also formed within the Railways Department.

A Sub-Centre of the Association was established at Hay, New South Wales during 1887, while in 1888 Sub-Centres were formed at Mt Gambier, South Australia, and at Launceston and Deloraine in Tasmania. It was in 1890 that the Tasmanian Centre of the Association was established in Launceston, thereby relieving the Victorian Centre of the responsibility of conducting Tasmanian classes.

At this time Victoria had 30 suburban and 32 country Sub-Centres and, during the period 2nd

August 1883 to the 30th April 1890, 3660 students had been instructed in First Aid; 1954 of them receiving certificates. This result was very satisfactory and indicated that public interest in the work of the Association had been stimulated and was being retained.

On the occasion of the Annual Competition and Demonstration of First Aid held at the Melbourne Town Hall on the 28th April 1890, at which His Excellency the Governor, The Earl of Hopetoun, was present, the hall was filled to capacity.

The following reports of First Aid being rendered and of assistance given in times of emergency confirm the high standard of tuition given and a desire to utilise knowledge for the benefit of others.

The Annual Report for the year 1896 states:

"A very gratifying communication was received, enclosing the sum of £2.2:0 from a gentleman who wished to express his keen appreciation of the good work which is being done by the Association.

Through a buggy accident, he sustained a compound fracture of his leg. Being near a railway station where an ambulance stretcher was placed, he was enabled to be conveyed to Melbourne and then to a hospital, in comparative comfort. Without this aid he would have experienced great suffering and the fracture would have been much more complicated."

"Mrs Elaine Green, a pupil of the South Yarra Sub-Centre who went to Johannesburg, South Africa was, during the late war, selected to go to the battle-field as a nurse, owing to the fact that she held "First Aid and Nursing" Certificates of the Association".

"Miss Edgar, a pupil of the Central Methodist Mission classes, has been acting as nurse to four children with Scarlet Fever and has been following the instructions received in the Nursing Class to the entire satisfaction of the doctor, entirely owing to her training in the "First Aid and Nursing" courses."

"A woman fell backwards over an obstacle on the Queen's Wharf and broke the small bone just above the ankle. Sr Hannah, of the Central Methodist Mission Class, made splints of some

pieces of wood and bound them on with hay banding. When removed to the hospital, she was informed that a compound fracture had been avoided by the Sister's knowledge of First Aid."

The annual report 1896-1897 states:

"Chewton - Miss Rose Brown. Dr Woolley reports that he was sent for to attend an accident in Chewton, but no particulars were given. He found that the case was a compound comminuted fracture of the right femur and that Miss Rose Brown had put the case up in every particular so safely as to allow him to return to Castlemaine for proper appliances and go back at his leisure to set the leg properly."

Report from the Mildura sub-centre:

"Mrs Hodge, living in London for some time, was one night roused from sleep by her landlady who begged her to come to see the servant who was, she thought, bleeding to death from a large wound on the back of her head.

While going to the servant's room, Mrs Hodge tried to remember what Dr Cameron had said at the lectures here and she could hear his voice quite distinctly, 'put pressure on the bleeding point, put pressure on the bleeding, don't muddle about with wet applications.' She found the people of the house had been 'muddling with wet applications', that the woman had lost a great deal of blood, it was flowing fast from the wound which was difficult to locate owing to the servant having a lot of thick black hair, but Mrs Hodge took a towel and rolled it up very tightly, placing it on the wound. She placed the back of the head against her shoulder and held the head as firmly as she could for some time until the Surgeon's arrival. I forget his name, but he is one of the best Surgeons in London. He told Mrs Hodge she had undoubtedly saved the woman's life as she could not have afforded to lose any more blood. It took him two hours to find and tie the arteries and he said it was one of the worst accidents to the head he had seen.

It is supposed the woman had a fit and fell out of bed backwards, her head hitting and catching on one of those very old - fashioned small pane windows, the lead supports were worn through and sharp.

Mrs Hodge was in our first class here in July to September 1893 and she said I could use her name. She was quite pleased."

(Letter signed - Jean B.L.Cameron, Hon. Secretary, Mildura)

Annual Report 1896-1897 States:

"In February last, Mr Thomas J Howard Ivy was on his way, by electric tram, from Hobart to Sandy Bay, when the car was stopped by a young lady who anxiously inquired if anyone could restore an apparently drowned man. Mr Ivy immediately proceeded to the beach, where a young man lay to all appearance drowned. He commenced the method for restoring the apparently drowned adopted by Dr Silvester and taught in the curriculum of the pupils of our Association. After persevering for about 20 minutes, he had the satisfaction of detecting signs of returning animation and, by continuing his efforts for another fifteen minutes he succeeded in completely restoring the man. Dr Scott of Hobart, who had been telegraphed for, said that the man was now all right.

Mr Ivy, who thus saved the man's life, is not only one of our best certificated pupils who has gained his medallion, but is one who has been decorated for his services in the defence of his country by Her Majesty the Queen with a war medal and clasp for Sebastopol, and also by His Serene Highness Abdul Medjid, late Sultan of Turkey, with a war medal for services rendered in the Crimea, 1854-5-6, thus proving that, while he can distinguish himself for bravery as a soldier, he can also excel in the peaceful works of humanity."

Handwritten letter from H.R. Way of 172 Hotham street, East Melbourne dated 8.3.1899 to William Hamilton Esq., East Melbourne Bicycle Club, St John's Ambulance Soc. (Attached to Annual Report 1898)

"The following will no doubt be interesting and gratifying to you as it has been to all the members of the East Melbourne class. Should you wish to glean further particulars, Messrs. Chandler of Brunswick Street, Fitzroy will be happy to supply them on the telephone.

On Saturday evening upon the return of the "Hygeia" from her Ironmongers Picnic at Sorrento, a man fell into the water and when rescued the usual signs of death by drowning were apparent.

Three of our members, Messrs. D.J. & W.H. Chandler and William Spears, proceeded to try and resuscitate the man by artificial respiration and were successful. The man regained consciousness and was removed to the Hospital by the Police.

Our members had some trouble in persuading the Police to allow them to try artificial means of respiration but fortunately succeeded, for doubtless if the Police had carried out their intention of at once taking the man to the Hospital, he would have been beyond human help on arrival there.

Some medical assistance arrived on the scene while our men were at work but declined to interfere saying that the men evidently knew their work and were doing it thoroughly.

You will understand how pleased the men were at their success and being the fortunate possessors of such very useful knowledge, thereby being instrumental in saving a human life."



A difficult task in the Railways First Aid Competitions



Another challenge



The Broadmeadows team show how it should be done



The horse-drawn ambulance ran from Eastern Hill Fire Station until 1903.



The first motor ambulance was put into operation on July 25, 1910.



“The Victorian Civil Ambulance Service in association with St John Ambulance Association” from 1916.

Transportation:

In these early years no transport was available for sick or injured persons and it was customary for these unfortunate people to be bundled into the nearest hansom cab, or indeed, into any handy vehicle, for transportation to hospital. No treatment was given to injuries and, in many cases, the patient's condition was severely aggravated and sometimes death resulted. The cab drivers were not overjoyed either with this method of transport, as blood and vomit frequently had to be cleaned out of the cab before they could resume their livelihood and accept another fare.

Mr Lloyd Tayler, speaking at a public meeting held in Williamstown in 1886 for the purpose of forming an Association Sub-Centre there, cited the case of a man in Melbourne who suffered a broken leg as a result of an accident. The man was taken to hospital on a vehicle (possibly a horse-drawn wagon) with his injured limb dangling over the side.

Members of the St John Council realised the desperate need for transport so, in 1887, Lady Janet Clarke, wife of the first President of The Victoria Centre, with a band of workers, raised sufficient funds and presented six "Ashford Litters" (two - wheeled stretchers) to the Centre. These were housed at the various Police Stations in Melbourne and, when transport was required, a Police Constable would trundle along the road with the patient on the stretcher, little or no First Aid being given. On a warm day, the attendants would become hot and tired and, as hotels were usually prominently situated along roads which led to the hospital, a call at the "local" en route helped to revive the constable and his patient.

Police Stations, having telephonic communication, were ideal for controlling the use of the Litters and this service was given gratuitously. The old practice of using hansom cabs persisted however until, in 1896, one of the "Ashford Litters" was placed at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station at Eastern Hill, in charge of Chief Officer Stein, and the first step was taken to form the present Ambulance Service.

During the first twelve months this Litter was called out over 100 times, manned by firemen and, as the requests for its use continued to increase, Mr Stein suggested obtaining a horse - drawn ambulance.

In 1899, a wagon was borrowed from the Defence Department and, while it was a great improvement on the Litter, it was found to be too heavy for the work. As it was necessary to obtain a lighter and more suitable vehicle, Mrs L J Bevan, Mrs J E Neild and other ladies who called themselves "The Daughters of the Court", raised sufficient funds to buy a suitable ambulance for the St John Ambulance Association, and this first horse - drawn ambulance was put into service and operated from the Fire Brigade at Eastern Hill. In its first year of service the ambulance was called out over 400 times, and the calls increased so rapidly that the Fire Brigade Board made a demand on the Association for the sum of £150:0:0, the amount by which it was out of pocket running the service during the first year. The Association, being mainly dependent on public subscriptions for finance, was unable to provide funds for this service and the Melbourne City Council was requested to call a conference of municipalities to discuss maintenance of the service.

In 1900 the conference was held and a resolution passed requesting the Fire Brigade to continue the service, but pecuniary assistance was refused.

In July 1901 the Metropolitan Fire Brigade notified the Association of its intention to discontinue the service after October of that year. The Association's Council then approached the Chief Commissioner of Police with a view to the Police Department taking over operation of the service. The Commissioner advised that he had "neither men nor horses to spare for the purpose".

The Association, with no funds to cover this work, appealed to the Chief Secretary who, in turn, communicated with the Fire Brigade Board who undertook to continue the service providing the Association recouped their out of pocket expenses of £350 for the current year. Requests from the Association to the Chief Secretary for a grant of £200 towards this amount and later for a grant of £125 were both refused. The Government declined to guarantee the amount and subsequently informed the Association that "in future the Police would convey injured persons by cabs and Litters, and that the ambulance would not be required."

The Fire Brigade notified the Association in 1902 that it would terminate the service on 31st December. The Salvation Army was approached and asked to take the service over, but they declined.

A private arrangement was then entered into with a Mr A.J. Nance to carry on the service from the 1st January 1903 for the sum of £6:0:0 per week, and the ambulance was housed at the back of Sennitt's Ice Works near Queen's Bridge. The St John Council then agreed to call tenders for the conduct of the Ambulance Service and, following an advertisement which resulted in nine replies, the tender for twelve months was let to a livery stable proprietor, Messrs. Fiske Bros, at the corner of Queen and Lonsdale Streets, for the sum of £200 subject to their compliance with specifications of operation as to areas, and on their undertaking to have the men trained in First Aid to the injured.

On the 31st August 1903, Mr Harry A Osgood (subsequently known as Harry A Osgood-Cannon), a Warrant Officer in the Boer War, was employed by Fiske Bros, and the Association paid him 35/- per week to supervise the service. Harry A Osgood-Cannon was later appointed Chief Officer of the Service.

So great was the demand for ambulance transportation that, in March 1905, tenders were called for a second horse-drawn ambulance, and by tender, Harry A Osgood operated the service with two wagons at £475 per annum. From this he paid staff wages and supplied the necessary horses and accommodation. To supplement the £475 under the contract, he was paid a commission of 10% on fees collected over £500 and 20% over £600 and, if journeys over seven miles were involved, 25% of the fee paid towards the cost of the horse hire.

During 1905, 899 calls were attended and, as it was impossible to cope with all requests for an ambulance, on the 19th March 1906, a third ambulance wagon was put into service.

In his report to the Council, Mr Osgood-Cannon recommended "That on account of the heavy traffic, and to avoid accidents in the city streets, motor horns be fitted to the wagons." This recommendation was adopted.

The age of the motor vehicle having arrived, the Council wrote to London in March 1905 for the plans and specifications of a motor ambulance, but it was not until the 10th October 1910, that the first motor ambulance was put into commission.

In the meantime, as the calls for ambulance transport continued to increase, the Council called tenders on the 7th July 1906, for a fourth horse ambulance, the cost being £122.0.0 .

Despite the fact that the vehicles belonged to the St John Ambulance Association Council and Mr Harry Osgood was actually acting as a Contractor when the fourth wagon was obtained, a Solicitor was appointed to draw up a contract for a further

three years, and to safeguard the members of the Council and the Secretary from pecuniary liability. The contract also stated that, in addition to operating the four wagons, he was to supply seven men during the daytime and three during the night (this was long before the 8-hour day), and to provide the horses for the sum of £800 per year, to which he agreed.

The stables were located at Lang Lane, off Bourke Street, at the rear of the Grand Hotel, Spring Street, City. (Lang Lane ran behind the "Grand Hotel" {now the "Windsor Hotel"} and the "White Hart Hotel" which was next door.)

As it was very difficult to attend all calls, the establishment of a Branch Depot at Prahran was considered; however, the Sub-Committee appointed to go into this matter reported that "owing to the increased cost of £250 per annum, it be not established at present".

When this matter was again discussed at a special meeting of the Council on the 16th August 1907, it was agreed to accept the offer of Mr Harry Osgood to open a Branch in Prahran at a cost of £250 per annum. The first Branch of the Ambulance Service at 476 Chapel Street, Prahran was declared open on the 27th August 1907 by Mr John Blyth, President of the Association who, in the absence of the Mayor of Prahran, and in the presence of about 30 persons, officiated at this function.

Even with the additional vehicles it still was not possible to cope with all the requests for transportation and, in October 1907, Mr Harry Osgood recommended that another carriage be built, which he offered to maintain with one extra man for the additional sum of £160 per annum, for a period of three years. This recommendation was adopted and, on the 28th January 1908, the fifth wagon was put into service.

As it was not always possible to hire a horse when required for long journeys, an amount of £50 per annum was granted to the Contractor to enable him to keep a spare horse for such contingencies.

In June 1908, the Town Clerk of Essendon approached the St John Council to establish a Branch at Essendon. During 1909, Mr H A Osgood moved his residence to a house at 61 Wilson Street, Moonee Ponds, from which he operated a horse-drawn ambulance under contract with the Essendon Council for the sum of £100 per annum. This was now the third Ambulance Depot, the others being in Melbourne and Prahran.

The contract to operate the ambulance service for a period of one year at a cost of £1460 per annum was renewed in July 1909, and one of the four wagons at Lang Lane, City, was transferred to the Branch Station at Essendon.

Administration of the service was sound and the financial statement for the year 1907-8 showed receipts from donations £312:14:6, transport fees £1319:17:1. Total income £1632:11:7; expenditure - Contractor £988:5:0, repairs £188:17:6, management £100:0:0; surplus income over expenditure £355:9:1. A new wagon was purchased out of this surplus income.

In November 1909, the Association set aside an amount of £250 towards the cost of a motor ambulance and, on the 21st November 1909, a letter was received from Kellow Motors (now known as Kellow-Falkiner's) for a special "10-14" horse power, 2-Cylinder Renault commercial-type motor chassis fitted with tyres in France for the sum of £320, plus £10 for transport.

As the Austin Hospital had a horse-drawn ambulance which had never been used, this was purchased in the year 1909 for the sum of £5, bringing the number of wagons the Contractor operated under the Association's supervision to five.

In April 1910, an order was placed with Kellow Motors for the "10-14" horse-power two-cylinder Renault chassis at a cost of £400 and, on 25th October 1910, it became the first motor ambulance to operate in Victoria. It also was the foundation

for the fleet of motor ambulances available for service today.

During the year 1909-10, 4304 calls were attended, 1338 being charity cases. During the first six months of operation the motor ambulance travelled 7434 miles, attending a total of 694 calls. So successful was the use of the motor vehicle, which enabled greater distances to be covered and reduced the stress on both men and horses of travelling in all kinds of weather along ill-lit and often rough roads, that a second motor ambulance was put into service on 5th September 1911, and a

third was commissioned for service on 17th March 1913. During that year 6145 calls were attended, the motor and horse-drawn ambulances travelling 45,318 miles.

From its humble beginning, transportation of casualties was recognised as a necessity for a growing population.

Comparison of the above figures with the 1986/87 statistics of ambulances servicing Victoria (shown below), will indicate just how vital a role they play in community life:

	Kms Travelled	Stretcher Cases
Ambulance Service Melbourne	2,678,369	167,078
Ambulance Service Victoria (excluding A S M)	18,477,979	363,210
TOTAL	21,156,348	530,288

While vehicles used by the St John Ambulance Brigade are not authorised to transport casualties to hospital, they are still important to public welfare. They cover great distances as they take up positions as mobile First Aid Posts at public duties and in times of State emergencies. Exact records are not available as to kilometres travelled but the presence and availability of St John vehicles should be kept in mind when assessing services rendered in modern times.

Mr Harry Osgood-Cannon's contract was cancelled and the Association assumed full control of the ambulance service in the year 1913, moving into rented premises at 463 Swanston Street, Cnr. Franklin Street, Melbourne, opposite the City Baths, where the motor vehicles were housed. The building also provided space for the administrative offices and sleeping quarters for the drivers who were required on the job.

The Association then had three motor ambulances and four horse-drawn vehicles and, during the year

of 1913, 6953 calls were covered at a cost of £5214:0:0. On 30th April 1914 the Association had a bank deficit of £1054:0:0.

It was during 1914 that the State Government made its first grant of £250 towards the upkeep of the service; the Melbourne City Council £75, and some of the municipalities, smaller amounts. However, during 1914-15, the Council reported that the financial situation was serious and suggested that the State Government and all municipalities should contribute towards the upkeep of the service.

The financial position of the service continued to cause great concern and, despite all the efforts made by Council, the situation deteriorated. Many meetings were held and, in order to get more recognition and finance for the service, during 1916 it was decided by the Association to change the name from St John Ambulance Transport Service to Victorian Civil Ambulance Service. This new body was registered as a Company "Not

for Profit” and was registered under the “Companies Act”. A provisional Committee of

Management was formed which consisted of-

Chairman	Mr A Howard Hansford, M.A., LL.B. (who had attended to the legal transfer of the Service)
Secretary	Mr J Harold Lord (who was also Secretary of the St John Ambulance Association)
Chief Officer	Mr Harry Osgood-Cannon
Committee Members	Miss M.G. Bell, Dr Charles Bage, M.A., M.D, Dr R.L. McAdam, M.B., M.D.

Mr Hansford later became President of the Service and held this position until his retirement in 1937.

As a result of municipal support, the municipalities were given three representatives on the Victorian Civil Ambulance Committee in the year 1921, as also were the Victorian Railways.

In order to relieve the desperate financial position of the transport service which had a debt of £2333 outstanding; needed renewal of the existing plant and wagons; combined with expiration of the lease of the rented premises in Swanston Street and the necessity for larger premises, a Queen Competition and Carnival was held. As a result, premises at 217 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, were bought on terms for £8000, and the Prahran horse depot was moved to an old fire station building at the Cnr. Williams Road and High Street, Prahran.

The new Headquarters building in Lonsdale Street, City, was officially opened on 3rd October 1919 by the Lieut-Governor, Sir William H Irvine. The Ground floor housed office accommodation for St John and Victorian Civil Ambulance Service. The first floor had living quarters for Mr Harry Osgood-Cannon and his family, whilst the second floor had sleeping quarters for attendants and

drivers. At the side of the building was a workshop and car wash.

Although the Association was no longer responsible for ambulance activities, the Constitution drawn up for the new Victorian Civil Ambulance Service provided for continued support and promotion of the activities of both the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade. Representatives of both were appointed to the Board of Management, as also were representatives from Municipal Councils and the Victorian Railways. Other members of the Board were elected by contributors.

St John representation on the Board of Management ceased in 1975 when the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service became Ambulance Service Melbourne, members of the Board being appointed by the governing Council. Since 1st July 1987 a further change has been effected and the Minister for Health now makes Board of Management appointments after vacancies are advertised in the Press and nominations presented to him.

Visit of American Fleet

For the first time in the history of the Colony, the American Fleet was to pay it a visit. It was awe-inspiring to see America's mighty battleships steaming along in a single line about four miles in length, with the precise quarter of a mile distance being maintained between each battleship. The Fleet steamed up Port Phillip Bay on 29th August 1908, and weighed anchor on 5th September 1908.

The public responded to the announcement of the Fleet's visit with excited anticipation and many arrangements were made to welcome and entertain the visitors. The official programme included visits to Geelong, Ballarat, and Bendigo and a march by 2500 men through the city. Thousands of people were expected to line the route on this very memorable occasion.

Students from St John First Aid classes who qualified and had continued to maintain their efficiency now had an opportunity to put into practical use the knowledge they had gained. Under the direction of Surgeon Major George Horne of the Army Ambulance Corps, these men and women formed a Volunteer Ambulance Corps and were stationed at 16 Emergency Ambulance Stations set up at strategic locations throughout Melbourne streets. On the first day of the Fleet's visit, over 500 casualties were treated.

The following notice appeared in the "Argus" newspaper on 31st August 1908:-

"Visit - American Fleet - Ambulance Arrangements

The following Ambulance Stations will be maintained:

Cnr St Kilda Road and Park Street;
Princes Bridge, South end;
Flinders Street Station (Swanston Street);
Town Hall (Headquarters);

Cnr Swanston and Bourke Streets;
GPO;
Cnr Bourke and William Streets;
Cnr Queen and Collins Streets;
Cnr Elizabeth and Collins Streets;
Cnr Russell and Collins Streets;
Cnr Spring and Collins Streets;
Cnr Victoria Parade and Nicholson Street;
The Exhibition - 2 in Nicholson Street;
The Exhibition - 1 inside Exhibition Grounds;
Telephones: City 678, Central 3254 and Central 2211.

It would be well to cut this out and carry it with you."

This report appeared in the "Argus" newspaper on 1st September 1908:-

"Work of Ambulance - Minor Accidents"

"In various spots, removed as well as possible from the congested positions, Ambulance wagons were posted. They were fitted with First Aid appliances and on many occasions were very useful. The excitement proved too much for a number of onlookers and dozens of women, boys and girls, were at different times carried out of the crowd for attention."

The same edition of the newspaper reported "riotous scenes" and removal of the victims by Ambulance attendants.

An interesting comparison could probably be drawn between the first aid coverage for the visit of the American Fleet in 1908 and that provided for our present day Moomba Carnival. Both events cover a similar time period, attract large crowds and include a Parade along Melbourne streets. However, attention is drawn to the fact

that, while the Moomba Procession travels along only one Melbourne Street (Swanston Street) to its destination in the Alexandra Gardens, in 1908, the American Fleet March traversed several of the main city streets. This meant that first aid coverage was extended over a wide area and that communication between Posts would have been extremely difficult.

Statistics from the Moomba Day Procession in 1973 record the setting up of 23 First Aid Posts at

intervals along the route, with 11 St John Ambulance Brigade vehicles located at strategic points, and members on foot patrolling each section. First Aid Posts and Foot Patrols were in radio communication with Controllers at all times.

Personnel on duty on Moomba Day 1973 for the Procession and activities in the Alexandra Gardens was as follows:-

Surgeons	4
State Registered Nurses	7
Nursing Members	63
Ambulance Members	188
Nursing Cadet Members	51
Ambulance Cadet Members	<u>94</u>
Total	407

Over the ten day Moomba carnival period, the total attendance by Brigade members to cover duties was 647.

Casualties treated prior to Moomba Day		435
Casualties treated on Moomba Day -		
at the Gardens	238 +	
at the Procession	206 =	444
Total Casualties		879

(Casualties treated independently by Ambulance Service Melbourne are not recorded in the above figures).

The First Aid Volunteer Association

The experience of the American Fleet visit emphasised the obvious need to have a trained body of people to deal with such emergencies and the Council decided to form "The First Aid Volunteer Association", with Lieutenant-Colonel George Horne, M.D., as its President. This group represented the first unit of the St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria and was a decision taken just 21 years after the formation in 1887 of the St John Ambulance Brigade in England.

These men and women of The First Aid Volunteer Association were well trained and dedicated to their work. They didn't wear a uniform, but an arm brassard identified them as First Aiders and, for each specific public duty they attended, a special tag was issued and worn, which assured them of admission. Some of these tags are held in our Archive collection. Photographs of The First Aid Volunteer Association members clearly show

them wearing St John Medallions as proof of their ability to render First Aid.

(By courtesy of Mr Harold Leslie Perriman, an original member of The First Aid Volunteer Association founded in 1908, these items and other records are now in Victoria's Archives. Mr Perriman also took the photographs using time exposure and manipulating the camera with a length of cotton on a reel. Mr Perriman celebrated his 103rd birthday on the 6th September 1986).

The booklet outlining the Constitution and Rules of The First Aid Volunteer Association states: "Officially recognised by the St John Ambulance Association".

The Seventh Annual Report and Balance Sheet of The First Aid Volunteer Association, presented for the year ending 15th September 1915 shows the following;

President	Lieut - Colonel Horne, M.D.
Chairman	E.J. Harris, Esq
Honorary Members	J.W. Springthorpe, Esq, M.A., M.D, J.Robert Lee, Esq, M.D., F.R.C.S. Eng.; R.E. Weigall, Esq, M.B.

Amongst other matters, the Report states that The First Aid Volunteer Association had the opportunity of rendering service at the Belgian, Naval and Military and other Carnivals. They also rendered service at St Patrick's Day celebration and a number of other large gatherings.

Membership numbered three hundred. During the year over 20 demonstrations of first aid work were given before Friendly Societies and other bodies, resulting in the formation of a large number of classes. The aims of The First Aid Volunteer Association were given prominence at the various gatherings, and publicity by the city and local

Press ensured success in making the public realise the benefits conferred by a knowledge of first aid.

New Year's Day 1915 was chosen for the Volunteer Association's annual picnic which was held at Mitcham on the invitation of Mr McWhinney, whose house and land were placed at the disposal of members. Over 70 attended, and the day was spent in sports and pastimes, the gathering of plants, ferns etc. This most enjoyable outing ended with a walk to the train in the cool of the evening.

The Report continued to state that, on the 9th August, 1915, a letter was handed to the Secretary which advised that the following resolution had been passed by the Council of the St John Ambulance Association at their last meeting:-

"That a letter be written to Mr W.Ford Pratt, Honorary Secretary Volunteer Association, stating that the St John Ambulance Association withdraws its recognition from The First Aid Volunteer Association".

The Secretary, instructed by The First Aid Volunteer Association Committee at its Meeting on the 14th August, wrote to the Council asking for the reason of such withdrawal, but other than a formal acknowledgement of the letter, no reply had been received to that date.

Members were asked to make a special note of the fact that no complaint had ever been made to The First Aid Volunteer Association by the Council and that members of the Committee would refer to the matter at the Annual Meeting.

Many members of the First Aid Volunteer Association became Foundation Members of the St John Ambulance Brigade when it formed at Hawthorn on 10th March 1910, but still retained their association with the First Aid Volunteer Association. Brigade uniforms were not available at the time as they had to be sent by ship from England. In the meantime, metal arm badges were worn for Brigade duties.

In addition to providing a first aid service to the public, The First Aid Volunteer Association arranged social activities for its members. Although the Hawthorn St John Ambulance Brigade Division only existed for a relatively short time, the First Aid Volunteer Association continued to operate a parallel service at least until the year 1919, after which no further records are available.

The Annual Report for the year 1917 records lectures given by six members of the medical profession; visits from representatives of the Australian Red Cross and St Vincent's Hospital; of services rendered at various large gatherings and demonstrations given at different centres; that many members were acting as Honorary Secretaries of classes, and of eight outdoor meetings held during the year.

Allowing for the advanced knowledge and training equipment now available, the efforts of members of The First Aid Volunteer Association compare very favourably with those of the Brigade and other Organisations today, with special commendation for the dedication which was so evident at all times.

The St John Ambulance Brigade:

During 1909, permission was given by The St John Ambulance Association Council for the formation of the Victoria District of the St John Ambulance Brigade and Lieut-Colonel Horne was appointed as Deputy Commissioner. The Metropolitan Ambulance Division was registered on the 1st July 1910, and the Brighton Nursing Division on 3rd October 1910. Divisions were formed at Hawthorn and Brighton during the same year, while the Mildura Division was established during 1913.

Victoria lagged behind other Australian States in the formation of the St John Ambulance Brigade and, in view of its leadership in the St John Ambulance Association and First Aid Volunteer Association activities, it is difficult to understand the reason for this slow approach to such a vital necessity, especially as the visit of the American Fleet in 1908 certainly emphasised the need for trained personnel to be available to cope with casualties when large crowds gathered.

Although original Registration Forms for The Metropolitan Ambulance Division (1st July 1910) and Brighton Nursing Division (3rd October 1910) are held and these Divisions have been considered to be the first formed in Victoria, this is not strictly correct.

The Hawthorn Ambulance Division was formed on 10th March 1910, the members being graduates of a St John Ambulance Association class conducted at the Hawthorn Sub-Centre in the latter part of 1909. Its Divisional Surgeon was Dr P.E. Brett, its Superintendent was F.H. Golland, and its Secretary was W.Driver. (The latter two men were members of the FAVA and W Driver was its Chairman in 1917-18).

The Hawthorn Nursing Division was formed on the 3rd May 1910. These two Hawthorn Divisions were forced to close within a year as most of the public duties for the Brigade were allocated to the newly-formed Metropolitan Division and members of Hawthorn were enticed to transfer if they wished to continue practical First Aid duties.

With the outbreak of war in 1914, a number of Divisions were formed from persons already trained by St John. These included Footscray Ambulance Division and Malvern and Williamstown Nursing Divisions, all still in existence and operating. The Association and the Brigade were kept very busy training personnel and many members joined the Australian Naval and Military Forces for Overseas Service. The Association Council placed the entire Ambulance Organisation at the disposal of the Minister of Defence and offered to organise, uniform and equip as many Divisions of the Brigade as possible to be of service.

Members of these Divisions undertook duties with Voluntary Aid Detachments, organised by a joint Committee of the St John Ambulance Association and the Red Cross Society. These Detachments furnished comforts for returning wounded and provided trained staff to assist as Voluntary Orderlies at Military Hospitals and Convalescent Depots. In September 1916, a small contingent of Voluntary Aid Detachment ladies from Victoria (including Miss Jessie Bage, daughter of Dr Charles Bage who was a foundation member of the Association), sailed for France to the Order of St John Hospital at Etaples. Many St John members were killed or wounded when this Hospital was bombed.



First Aid Volunteer Association

MELBOURNE.

President :
Lieut.-Col. Horne, M.D.

Chairman :
E. J. Harris, Esq.

Honorary Members :
J. W. Springthorpe, Esq., M.A., M.D.
J. Robert Lee, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., Eng.
R. E. Weigall, Esq., M.B.



ANNUAL REPORT — AND — BALANCE SHEET

For the Year ending 15th September,
1915.

PRINTED BY
J. B. PETERSON & CO.
107-109, ST. GEORGE'S ROAD, MELBOURNE.

FIRST AID VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION, MELBOURNE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting to you the Seventh Annual Report and Balance Sheet, we have pleasure in noting the steady progress made during the year. Our members now number over 300, as against 200 last year, and under 50 at the beginning of our career.

The attendances at the weekly meetings have been very large, and the practical work carried out has proved of much service, not only to our own members, but also to students attending classes in various centres who have accepted our invitation to join us in practice.

The interest of the medical profession still continues with us in our work, as shown by the fact that lectures on various branches of first-aid have been given by Drs. Mary Glowrey, Lewis J. Birch, W. Spalding Laurie, Ferguson A. Lemon, T. P. Noonan, A. Sherwin and R. E. Weigall.

We have also had the pleasurable opportunity of hearing Sister Greer, the Superintendent of the Victorian Bush Nursing Association, on the work of the Bush Nurse, and a lantern lecture by G. A. Roberts, Esq., entitled "A Trip on the Murray," when we collected a sum of £3 for the work of the V.B.N.A., which was handed to Sister Greer at the close, she being our guest for the evening. Cordial acknowledgment of the contribution has since been received from the Council of the V.B.N.A.

We have had the opportunity of rendering service at the Belgian, Naval and Military and other carnivals, St. Patrick's Day celebration, and a number of other large gatherings, and our special evenings have again been very successful.

During the year members have given over twenty demonstrations of first-aid work before Friendly Societies and other bodies, the result being that a large number of classes have been formed, and the publicity given to our aims at the various gatherings and in the city and local press has been a great help in ensuring the success of the recent efforts to make the public realise the benefits conferred by a knowledge of first-aid. Further displays are in prospect, and we hope to keep this branch of our work prominently before the public, so that the study of emergency measures in relation to the sick and injured may not be allowed to languish.

Many members hold positions as honorary secretaries of sub-centres, whilst others are assisting them, and many other secretaries, not only in first-aid, but also in nursing courses, and hearty appreciation of their efforts has been given.

Outdoor meetings at Brighton Beach, Chelsea, Hampton, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Kew, Moonee Ponds and Oakleigh have been of much service in the study of improved methods of treatment.

The evening of 4th December, 1914, was set apart for a social, at which a collection of towels was made, the result being that 380 were forwarded to the headquarters of the Red Cross Society at Federal Government House.

New Year's Day, 1915, was chosen for our annual picnic, which was again held at Mitcham, on the invitation of Mr. McWhinney, whose house and land were placed at our disposal. Over seventy members attended, and the day was spent in sports and pastimes, the gathering of plants, ferns, etc., and a most enjoyable outing finished with a walk to the train in the cool of the evening.

On the 9th August, 1915, a letter was handed to the Secretary, which stated that the following resolution had been passed by the Council of the St. John Ambulance Association at their last meeting:—

[Copy]

"That a letter be written to Mr. W. Ford Pratt, Hon. Secretary Volunteer Association, stating that the St. John Ambulance Association withdraws its recognition from the First Aid Volunteer Association."

Your Committee, at their meeting on the 14th August, instructed the Secretary to write to the Council, asking for the reason of such withdrawal, but up to the present no reply has been received, except a formal acknowledgment of the letter.

Members may take special note of the fact that no complaint has ever been made to this Association by the Council, and that members of the Committee will refer to the matter at the Annual Meeting.

A social evening was held on 19th August, when members presented Miss Marshall and Mr. McWhinney with a marble clock, with a suitable inscription, as a token of their appreciation of the work done by the recipients in the Association, and in view of their approaching marriage. Miss Marshall was also presented with baskets of flowers. Advantage was also taken of the large gathering to present Mr. E. J. Harris, our Chairman, with a large suit case in token of our recognition of his sterling ability as member and Chairman, on his leaving for England, he having accepted a commission in the forces of the old land.

A striking note in connection with our Association is that sixteen of our members have joined the fighting forces of the Empire. One (Mr. F. Taysom), we regret to state, has laid down his life in the cause of honour and liberty.

We close the year with a credit balance of £27 7s. 1d., and are thus prepared to press forward in our endeavour to make first-aid a live branch of everyday work.

With every confidence in the future success of members' efforts, and the friendly co-operation of kindred bodies, we are, on behalf of the Committee,

W. CROFT,
Vice-President.

W. FORD PRATT,
Secretary.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The Committee held fourteen meetings during the year, and the attendance was as follows:—

Mrs. Kennedy	14	Mr. Hume	12
Miss Ewins	14	Mr. Perriman	12
Mr. Goater	14	Mr. Steiner	12
Mr. Pratt	14	Mrs. McWhinney	11
Miss Ormerod	13	† Mr. Harris	9
Mr. Croft	13	† Miss Clarke	6
Mr. McWhinney	13	* Miss Wilson	4
Mr. Daly	12		

* Resignation accepted, April.

† Elected, May.

‡ Left for the front, August.

BALANCE SHEET for the Year ending 15th September, 1915.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
To Balance from Year 1914	£21 6 4	By Rent	£21 0 0
" Members' Subscriptions (1914-15)	21 15 0	" Printing	6 6 6
" Life Members' Subscriptions	4 4 0	" Postage	7 8 11
" Entrance Fees	8 10 0	" Stationery	0 12 0
" Donations	2 0 6	" Hire of Lantern	2 12 0
" Voluntary Rent Collections	0 6 8½	" Hire of Chairs and Fan	1 0 0
" Collection for V.B.N.A.	2 0 0	" 100 Association Badges	3 0 0
" Proceeds Picture Night	5 2 10	" Stretcher	1 14 10
" Badges Sold	6 11 2	" Easel	0 12 0
" Bank Interest	0 10 6	" Picnic Committee, 1915, from Picnic, 1914	1 6 8½
" Members' Subscriptions Paid in Advance (1915-16)	9 2 6	" V.B.N.A. Collection	3 0 0
		" Red Cross Towel Evening Expenses	1 1 0
		" X-Ray Expenses	0 15 0
		" Honorarium (Secretary)	5 3 0
		" Salaries (Secretary and Treasurer)	0 2 0
		" Sundries	0 5 3
		" Balance in Bank	27 7 1
	£95 9 3½		£95 9 3½

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Balance	£20 5 11	Stores as per Valuation	£11 18 10
	£20 5 11	Balance in Bank	27 7 1
			£39 5 11

Audited and found correct,			
WILLIAM DRIVER, }	Auditors,	L. PERRIMAN, Treasurer.	
F. H. GOLLAND, }			



The First Aid Volunteers Association formed in 1908 from St John Certificate holders to provide first aid to crowds at the visit of the American Fleet.



The Melbourne Metropolitan Division of St John Ambulance Brigade formed in 1913.



Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurses on parade at Government House, Melbourne c.1945



VAD's in St Kilda Road c.1945, led by St John Ambulance Brigade District Superintendent Frederick Raven.



St John Melbourne Metropolitan Nursing Division VAD's in 1917.

Voluntary Aid Detachments:

What is a Voluntary Aid Detachment and its function? This is a question frequently asked and the following extracts from “Annals of the Ambulance Department”, being the history of The St John Ambulance Association and Brigade, an English publication compiled by N. Corbet Fletcher, may prove enlightening to readers:-

Year 1909

16th August

“The War Office this day issued a Scheme for the Organisation of Voluntary Aid in England and Wales, consequent on the establishment of the Territorial Forces in 1907- for the organisation of Voluntary Aid in the event of war in the Home Territory.”

The Scheme required the formation of Voluntary Aid Detachments for Men and Women, and was based on the models of the Japanese and the German Red Cross Societies. It was intended to fill up gaps in the medical service of the Territorial Forces- the men being specially trained by the British Red Cross Society, the St John Ambulance Association and Brigade, and the County Associations of Territorial Forces, in first aid, methods of transport, sanitation, and conversion of buildings for emergency war purposes. The women were trained in first aid, nursing, and cooking.

During peace-time the Detachments were to remain strictly under the control of the organisations which trained them, subject only to periodical inspections by the War Office and tests as to their efficiency. Upon mobilisation in the event of war, all Detachments were to pass

forthwith under the direct control of the Army Council.

In the original Scheme, the Territorial County Associations were required through the British Red Cross Society to form Voluntary Aid Detachments of men and women who, before joining, would be required to hold certificates in first aid and nursing issued by the St John Ambulance Association. This plan raised difficulties through which, on 10th June 1910, the Association for a time withdrew its participation in the Scheme, though it still persevered with its plans.

On 10th December 1910, therefore, the War Office issued a Revised Scheme whereby certificates of other organisations were accepted, (one objection being that the standard of the St John Ambulance Association's certificates was too high and its examinations too severe) and Detachments were to be formed either through the British Red Cross Society or independently by the County Associations of Territorial Forces. Moreover, the Central Executive Committee decided to form Detachments (or Companies) from members of the Brigade and of the Association, both being subject to acceptance by the County Associations and under the control of the Ambulance Department while conforming to military rules and regulations on the subject.

Year 1911.

11th March:

Chapter-General this day appointed Lady Ethel Lucy Perrott, RRC, as Lady Superintendent-in-Chief of Nursing Corps and Divisions of the Brigade, and Lady Commandant-in-Chief of

Women's Voluntary Aid Companies - *"her chief duty being to report to the Chief Commissioner on all matters affecting the Nursing Divisions"*.

This appointment signalled the introduction of a scheme of administration which involved the appointments of Lady District and Corps Officers in connection with the Nursing Divisions, with duties similar to those of corresponding Officers of Ambulance Corps and Divisions of the Brigade.

14th April:

The Territorial Branch of the Association reported this day that St John Voluntary Aid Companies (Brigade and County) were being formed up and down the country (75 for men; 65 for women); that great activity was being shown up and down the country by the formation of classes for the qualifying certificates; that Lieut-Colonel G.E. Twiss, RAMC, had prepared a Training Manual for these Companies; and that the Lady Commandant-in-Chief was introducing practical experience in hospital for women members.

Year 1915.

1st July:

The Voluntary Aid Scheme, which was nullified by the failure of the enemy to invade this country, was wisely modified by the War office on 18th August 1914, and used to supplement the supply and working of hospitals.

The Men's Detachments were used for the transport of patients from ambulance ships and trains to the Military Hospitals and from Military to Auxiliary Hospitals, and also for orderly duties in the Auxiliary Hospitals. The Women's Detachments were used to either staff the St John Auxiliary Hospitals throughout the country, or to render whole or part-time (and often specialist) service in the Military Hospitals at home and abroad, and also in Rest Stations in France. In many instances a Detachment formed its own Auxiliary Hospital which was attached to the

nearest Military Hospital and was supplied by it with patients.

The efforts of the Brigade-At-Home were splendidly supported by the Brigade Overseas which in all its Districts reported the formation of St John Voluntary Aid Detachments, the voluntary assumption of transport duties, and, where necessary, the establishment of local Auxiliary Hospitals. Indeed, the contribution of the Brigade Overseas is well summarised in the 1917 Report of its Chief Commissioner, thus:

"Almost without exception the Districts have vied with each other in loyal co-operation with the Military Medical Authorities and in every local effort for giving personal service, for collecting funds for the sick, wounded, and prisoners of war, and for arranging for the comfort of troops both when departing for and when returning from the front".

It was by such means both at home and abroad, throughout the European War, that the modern Order of St John supported the hospital tradition established and maintained down the ages by the Knights of the Ancient Order of St John.

Possibly events overseas were not altogether reassuring, because during the 1920-30s, Voluntary Aid Detachments were again reactivated in Australia. The joining age was 16 years; qualification for admission, possession of First Aid and Home Nursing certificates for women, and the First Aid certificate for men.

The women wore a pale blue, belted frock with a white V-neck collar, with a red cross on a white background stitched on the left breast of the uniform. Uniforms for Officers were made with long sleeves, while members' uniforms had short sleeves. Metal badges "3 VAD", later "VAD Australia", or during wartime just "AUSTRALIA" for those enlisted for full-time Military service, were worn on the shoulder epaulettes. A white veil with a red cross in the centre was worn on the head, and black shoes with grey stockings

completed the outfit. The men wore the black St John uniform with a VAD badge.

Many hundreds of men and women joined Voluntary Aid Detachments, especially as war clouds again began to gather over Europe. Training was very comprehensive in the Detachments and, in addition to First Aid and Home Nursing courses, advanced lectures on appropriate subjects were arranged. Voluntary work was undertaken at many public and private hospitals and at the Red Cross Blood Bank, this being done at night and weekends. As Voluntary Aid Detachments were responsible to the Department of Defence, the sum of 1/- per capita per annum was paid by the Department to each Detachment, so that members would be maintained on the military payroll.

At the Annual Inspection of Voluntary Aid Detachments and First Aid Competitions held at Government House Grounds, Melbourne, on the 4th December 1937, the St Kilda Women's Detachment won the "Herald" championship cup, for which both men and women competed, and also won the "Sherwin" cup for women's Detachments. The team members were Ida Newman, Grace Watson, Marie Henderson (Captain), and Bertha Robinson. This was a repeat performance of St Kilda's team effort in 1936 when the team members were Marie Henderson, Clarice Page (Captain), Beryl Luxmore and Grace Watson and, as the competition standards were extremely high, this was a remarkably good effort. The "Sir Charles Connibere" trophy was won by the Caulfield Men's Detachment and the "Disher" shield for Cadets by the Williamstown team. Lord Huntingfield, Governor of Victoria, presented the men's trophy, while Lady Huntingfield presented the women's trophies.

The programme of the 1937 Annual Inspection listed 24 Women's Detachments and 13 Men's Detachments actively operating.

During 1936, training in anti-gas procedures was given by Defence experts to some 300 members of

Voluntary Aid Detachments, Lieutenant A Christie being one of the military experts involved (Lieutenant A Christie later became Colonel A Christie, who, in 1954, was appointed District Superintendent of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District). An examination was held at the conclusion of the course, with those qualifying being awarded a medal. The award for Officers was a blue cross bearing a white shield and a red cross, while that for the rank and file was a red cross with a white shield and red cross, the medal being suspended on a white ribbon with a coloured stripe in the centre.

When the Second World War erupted, Victoria had a trained body of people ready to place at the disposal of the Defence Department, as did other Australian States. On enrolment for full-time active service, and after assessment of individual capabilities, postings were made to various military establishments with a view to relieving fit men for service elsewhere.

As the value of the service of women in the Armed Forces was realised, the formation of The Australian Army Medical Women's Service was authorised in the latter part of 1942, and this was placed under the administrative control of the Director-General of Medical Services. Male Voluntary Aid units were deregistered and handed over to the State and National Emergency Services for ARP duties.

Members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) were expected to serve in medical units either in Australia or in advanced operational areas - in fact, to serve in any place where members of the Australian Army Nursing Service normally served. They were classified to undertake duties as Nursing Orderlies, Clerks, Telephonists, and for a variety of General Duties, their tasks taking them into hospital wards, kitchens, and administrative offices. Specialist responsibilities were undertaken as qualified Diet Supervisors, and advanced training was essential in Dental Clinics, Operating Theatres and other specialist areas associated with major hospitals.

Service was rendered by Victorian VADs and AAMWS in the Middle East, New Guinea, Morotai and other Pacific areas, and also in Australia at Darwin, Adelaide River, Katherine and many other places. When hospital trains transported sick and wounded soldiers, an AAMWS was always on the duty roster.

While many St John members no doubt enlisted for full-time military service, the names of Victorians which readily come to mind, apart from that of the author are, Thelma Peverill, Gwen Williams and Joyce Humphries from the YWCA Nursing Division, Doreen Townshend from Mornington Nursing Division, and Rose Peterson (later, Rose Hicks) from Williamstown Nursing Division.

The change-over of the original service of the VADs to the AAMWS was not a popular one with those enlisted for active service. It not only meant divorce from being an acknowledged "volunteer" as against later "conscription"; the loss of pride of association with a well-known, loved service, but also meant changing from blue uniforms to khaki. While the change was a practical one, especially in view of the facilities available in some areas of duty (or lack of them), women will always be fashion conscious and khaki had little to recommend it.

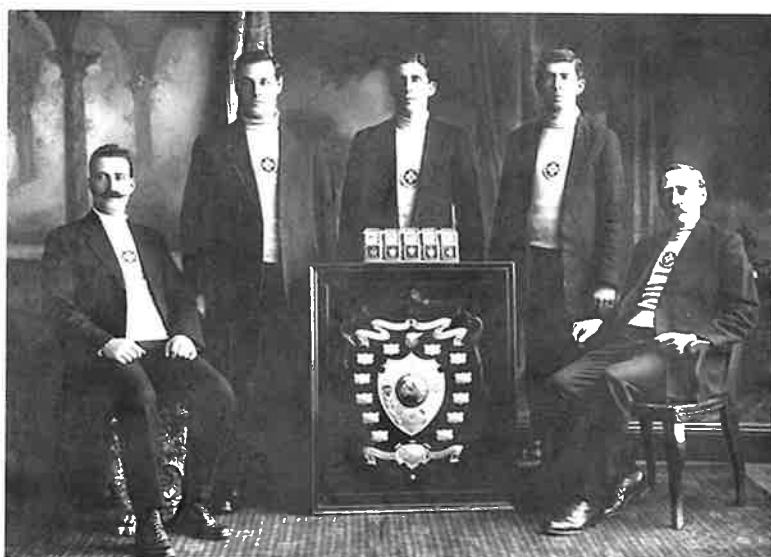
VAD personnel who did not enlist for active service during World War II continued giving voluntary service in many areas, one of the most prominent being at the Blood Bank of the Australian Red Cross Society.

This was a very busy facility and Miss Leline Cairns Lloyd, together with a few other VADs, gave it long and valuable service. In fact, Miss Cairns Lloyd worked as a VAD regularly at the Blood bank until well into the 1970s, contributing energy, experience and time to this essential service which she understood so well. Throughout these years with the Blood Bank, Miss Cairns Lloyd proudly wore the blue VAD uniform.

Realising the enormous value of women's efforts during wartime the Defence Department, at the cessation of hostilities and for the first time in history, set up an Establishment in Australia for a permanent 'Other Ranks' section of its Army Nursing Service. Previously, only qualified Nursing Sisters were eligible. This Service, the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, has replaced the Australian Army Medical Women's Service which, in turn, replaced the Voluntary Aid Detachments. From its early efforts and training of personnel, the Council of the St John Ambulance Association should surely be entitled to feel pride and satisfaction in this achievement.



A First Aid class run by the Association in 1910.



Winners of the Victorian Railways Challenge Shield First Aid Competitions in 1915.



Louise (Queenie) Peverill, Annis Crerar and Ida Freeman.



Ormond Nursing Division at the presentation ceremony for their new vehicle in 1986.



Nursing members at Flinders Street concourse during the Moomba march, 1976.

HONORARY INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION

The 1920s saw Australia and Australians adjusting to post-war conditions and, naturally, St John First Aid and Home Nursing courses were not very high on the list of priorities as far as the public was concerned. Every State reported a lack of interest in St John activities and it was imperative that the Organisation adopt measures to regain public support without delay.

The States worked hard to advance the cause of St John training and as much publicity as possible was sought, including sessions of radio broadcasting. It was during the year 1920 that a scheme was formulated for the training of Senior Cadets, and classes in connection with this continued throughout 1921, as also did industrial classes organised for Companies in the Footscray and Yarraville districts.

During 1921, approval was received for the formation of a Central Council for Australia and, in 1925, the Constitution of the "Central Council for Australia" (Western Australia excepted) was approved by the Chapter General of the Order.

In pursuance of improvements and the upgrading of its methods, many schemes emerged from the various States, some of which were adopted. Victoria, however, put into operation an idea which proved so successful that the other States soon followed suit. This was the formation, in February 1924, of an Honorary Instructors' Association, its aim being to increase the efficiency of Honorary Instructors. The inaugural meeting took place on the 1st May 1924, and bi-monthly meetings were held at which ideas and methods of demonstrating First Aid were

exchanged and problems brought forward for discussion.

To become a member of the Honorary Instructors' Association, a candidate had to be nominated by a member and, if considered acceptable, appeared before a Board consisting of several very senior members of the Organisation. Questions on First Aid were asked by members of the Board and the candidate was also required to demonstrate an ability to open, and conduct, a class.

A certificate was issued by the Centre Council to successful candidates, which qualified them to demonstrate the practical work of the course and to act as assistants to Doctors who gave the lectures. This certificate had to be renewed after a period of three years.

Approval was given to lay-instructors, following the Second World War, to conduct and to be responsible for all facets of training in Association First Aid and Home Nursing Courses. The Honorary Instructors' Association became the body which trained and certificated people as instructors and it became a sound foundation for the high standard of instruction and training which exists today.

Years of financial paucity created by a world-wide depression were experienced in Australia during the late 1920s and the 1930s. Businesses failed, jobs were lost, families moved in together to save on house rentals, and men walked miles seeking employment. Acceptance of the dole brought with it a sense of a loss of self-respect and dignity. Thus, it was only applied for in times of extreme emergency. All these factors reacted upon the St John Ambulance Association and Brigade.

The Association Centre refrained from publishing printed Annual Reports for the years 1929 and 1930 in an effort to reduce expenses. In 1930, because of its financial difficulties, the Council realised positive action was essential and decided to advertise its courses widely, hoping to attract more students to enrol and thereby increase revenue from class fees. This move succeeded and, despite the poverty and unemployment which were rife, attendances improved and were maintained.

Tribute should be paid to the many Honorary Instructors who, during the years spanning the Second World War, willingly gave so much of

themselves and their time to further the teaching of First Aid and Home Nursing. Classes were filled to capacity. Members of the public flocked to them to gain some knowledge of what to do in an emergency.

These unsung stalwarts of St John found their way to class venues under wartime blackout, or brownout lighting conditions, carrying their own teaching equipment, and using public transport.

Perhaps the following statistics may give some idea of the magnitude of the task undertaken by St John Ambulance Association Honorary Instructors who conducted public First Aid and Home Nursing classes during the 1939-1945 war years:-

Year	Senior Classes	Students Instructed	Awards Obtained
1930	106	2,275	1,461
1933	118	2,511	1,522
1938	132	3,239	2,128
*1939	472	14,497	8,882
*1940	758	22,673	13,993
*1941	753	24,375	Not recorded in Annual Report
*1942	1,135	43,496	Not recorded in Annual Report

Not included in the above figures -

1940 : The training in First Aid of a large number of men and women volunteers for service as Air Raid Wardens, First Aid Parties and First Aid Personnel under the State Emergency Service Plan for the protection of the civilian population.

Training in First Aid of members of the Red Cross Society.

1941 : As requested by the State Emergency Service, the conducting of special classes to train Air Raid Precautions personnel in the skills of first aid.

1942 : 242 classes of Air Raid Precautions personnel with a total membership of 6,580.

Figures for the remaining years of World War 11 are not available, but the desire of the community

to learn First Aid can no doubt be assessed from the above details.

The following article, submitted by Miss Evelyn Hunt, a former Senior St John Ambulance Association Instructor, will perhaps convey some idea of the difficulties and problems concerned with wartime classes and of the enormous work load each Instructor carried:

“During the Second World War, the desire of the general public to learn First Aid resulted in classes of various sizes being held in a variety of venues. These ranged from a spacious and comfortable area, such as the auditorium at the Headquarters of the Melbourne District Nursing Society (later-Royal District Nursing Service) in East Melbourne where their Women’s Auxiliary completed a course; to the typistes’ room at the Department of Munitions in William Street, Melbourne, where staff members learned First Aid amid numerous desks and chairs. Then, in the old St John Headquarters in Lonsdale Street where a room, normally restricted to a class of 25, was used for classes limited to 40.

At this time there was a severe shortage of Doctors, many of them having joined the Services. Consequently, certain senior instructors were authorised to give the required lectures, ie. to do both theory and practice for the whole course.

Another aspect of that period arose from Defence Department precautions concerning lighting. Street lights were dimmed; shop window lights banned; houses had blinds drawn and outside lights forbidden. Trams, trains and buses had only sufficient light to see seats, their windows curtained with black material to ensure safety.

Travelling to classes on winter nights, with the necessary teaching aids-splints, charts bandages etc., - was not easy, as even the doorway to one’s destination was difficult to locate and half lit stairs not easy to negotiate. However, the enthusiasm of the students was always heartening, and the majority emphatically expressed their enjoyment of the courses.”

Honorary Instructors during this period, whose names come to mind, include:-

Fred Budge	Hilda Book	Bob Pearson
Harry Brown	Mary Brink	Evelyn Hunt
Allan Crerar	Ann Crerar	Percy Robb
Will Fyffe	Ida Freeman	Lillian Jackman
Charles Morphett	Elizabeth Gurney	Gertrude Opie
‘Tubby’ Paton	Dorothy Hart	LE(Queenie)Peverill
Bruce Sims	George Thorogood	Minabel Reid (nee Ryan)
Victor Walker	Joyce Robinson	Stella Smith
Norman Wetton	Harry Willmott	

During the 1920s the Brigade quietly continued to consolidate its standing in the community by earning a reputation for reliability and quality caring service. At all major functions and events,

the public became used to seeing the familiar black and white uniforms of Brigade members on duty to ensure the well-being of all.

When the Duke of York (who subsequently became King George VI) visited Victoria during 1927, a parade was held in Melbourne and a special children's display was also given at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. These two events resulted in 1000 casualties being treated by the Brigade.

In 1934 an extensive program of entertainments was arranged by the authorities to celebrate Victoria's centenary. As thousands of people were involved in honouring this occasion, members of the Brigade were kept exceptionally busy and earned high praise for the efficient service given. When World War II started in 1939, the Brigade strength had grown from two Divisions in 1910 to:

	Ambulance Divisions	Nursing Divisions	Ambulance Cadet Divisions	Nursing Cadet Divisions	Total Personnel	Total Divisions
1939 Commissioner : Major General R Downes	13	6	8	-		
1945 Commissioner : Colonel JAH Sherwin	33	10	20	4		
1956 Commissioner : Brigadier WWS Johnston	41	17	27	10	2056	95
1959 Commissioner : Sir Kingsley Norris	49	20	35	16	2589	120
1964 Commissioner : Colonel Douglas Donald	65	20	45	34	3633	164
1967 Commissioner : Lieut-Colonel G Newman-Morris	79 + 9 sections	17	49 + 1 section	37 + 1 section		182
1971 Commissioner : Dr AW Burton	87 + 10 sections	15	51 + 1 section	39		192
1972 Commissioner : Dr HH Jackson	88 + 10 sections	14	51	40		193
1978 Commissioner : Dr JP Bush	14 + 59 combined	11	37 + 15 combined	30	3371	166
1984 Commissioner : Major-General FE Poke	63 Adult (6 Metro Corps & 5 Country Regions)		57 Cadet + 5 Combined		2816	125

In an effort to gain more members, recruiting campaigns were embarked upon from time to time. The support of the Press and associated advertising mediums was obtained and demonstrations of resuscitation and other first aid work were given in busy sections of the city and at suburban shopping centres.

While a great deal of interest was shown in the displays and the work generally, little long-term overall benefit resulted and the Brigade strength remained much the same.

However, this state of affairs was one not only affecting the Brigade, for enquiries of other organisations interested in public welfare, ie., Scouts, Guides, Red Cross, Church Groups etc., all reported similar problems.

Many factors need to be taken into consideration when assessing this problem. Some of them would have been influenced by the following:

1. Changing values in the community in that as we live in a materialistic age, everything tends to have a price put upon it - often an inflated one. The public attitude towards voluntary service is also not nearly as enthusiastic as it used to be.

2. The economic situation has become a burden to be borne by many for a long time. The outlook for improvement is bleak and, with unemployment rife in the community, people are reluctant to commit themselves to any further financial responsibilities.

3. The community life-style has changed.

We are living in a permissive era with many young people moving away from home and a caring family, to follow a way of life of their own choice. Independence is perhaps gained to some extent but at a high cost and certainly does not include giving service with the Brigade.

4. Conflicts of interests arise. There are many other avenues open to attract the attention and support of young people, not many so demanding as the requirements of St John. Education makes its own demand on students, often leaving little time for other interests. Invitations from friends to join in their arrangements for entertainment are difficult to refuse.

5. The Ethnic community. Although Australia's immigration policy has increased the population, the community now consists of people from many countries. The language barrier alone is sufficient for most of them to avoid joining community-orientated ventures. As a result, the various national groups tend to set up their own societies which must, in the long run, be detrimental to Australia as a whole.

Brigade Structure

The structure on which administration of the Brigade is based is a sound one which has stood the test of time. Occasionally, weaknesses became evident, but invariably most of these proved to be of a personal origin rather than an organisational defect and were dealt with promptly.

As will be seen from the Chain of Command, the District Commissioner is kept informed and served by District Staff Officers to whom the Corps Officers report. In turn, the Corps Officers receive reports and problems from Divisional Superintendents, and a system which utilises the experience and expertise of Senior Officers must produce the best results.

The Divisions represent the backbone of the Brigade and a happy, efficient Division is but a reflection of sound administration and good leadership.

In order to create the Corps, the metropolitan area was geographically divided into sections and suitably located Divisions were formed into Corps and known by numbers. Country Divisions were similarly dealt with, but were designated as Regions and supervised by Regional Officers. The same Chain of Command applies.

Originally, Ambulance and Nursing Divisions operated as separate entities, as did the Ambulance

Cadet and Nursing Cadet Divisions. All formed part of the Corps system. It was here that a problem of major importance arose, threatening the future of Nursing Divisions. It appeared that, as a result of the predominance of male personnel at that time, many Corps meetings dealt mainly with matters appertaining to Ambulance members, leaving little or no time to attend to the problems, requests and suggestions of Nursing members.

This created ill-feeling and, as the Nursing personnel felt they were only being tolerated and were not achieving anything, many resigned from the Brigade. As from 1 February 1972, in order to rectify this serious position the Nursing Divisions were formed into two Corps - North and South Corps - under the supervision of their own Nursing Corps Officers.

The Officers appointed to North Corps were :-

District Officer (N) Miss T.Peverill, C.St.J.
and
Corps Superintendent (N) Mrs G.Hulls, C.St.J.

While South Corps was the responsibility of :-

District Officer (N) Mrs M.Davenport, S.S.St.J. (supervising)
and
Corps Superintendent (N) Miss J.Robinson, O.St.J.

This was a sensible solution to the problem and satisfied all concerned. Later, North and South Corps were discontinued and Nursing Divisions again formed part of the numbered Corps.

With Brigade membership at a reasonably high level, it was possible for the various sections to function separately, but when the lean years started to make their presence felt and recruitment was almost non-existent, the system was found to be far from flawless. An imbalance was highlighted between the number of Officers and the number of members. It was obvious that a position of having more "Chiefs" than "Indians" was developing. It was vitally important that this imbalance be rectified. Wherever it was considered expedient to do so, therefore, Ambulance and Nursing Divisions joined forces and became "Combined Divisions". In some areas, Cadet Divisions did likewise. There are still some half dozen Nursing Divisions and a

number of Cadet Divisions functioning efficiently on their own. Hopefully, they will continue to do so. Divisions are not compelled to combine, this is arranged only at their request. In forming Combined Divisions, the Brigade was careful to observe the modern development of 'equal opportunity' for both male and female personnel. If the Divisional Superintendent was a male, the Divisional Officer appointment was, wherever possible, offered to a female, or vice versa, thus endeavouring to maintain the status quo of the Division.

In 1987, it was again decided to restructure the Brigade so that a more balanced allocation of Divisions within Corps could be attained, Corps constructed to better serve area first aid requirements, and the boundaries of country Corps amended to coincide exactly with Victorian State Displan regional boundaries.

The circular from the District Superintendent (Admin) to Corps Staff dated 22 April 1987, clearly explains this action together with lists

showing the allocation of Divisions under the new system.

“Brigade members are required to maintain a high standard of efficiency at all times. To do this, they must attend a minimum of twelve Divisional training nights each year, unless exempt pass annual Re-examination, and attend Divisional Inspection.” SJAB. General Regulations, 1980, Section 7, p25.

The Training Log

When conducting annual Re-examinations, District and Corps Staff found that there were vast differences in the knowledge and general efficiency of some Divisions, compared to others. In some cases, it was also found that the knowledge and skill of Brigade members was no greater than, if equal to, the knowledge of members of the general public who had only attended a single course of St John Ambulance Association First Aid lectures and instruction. Such a state of affairs was unacceptable and it was imperative that all training be standardised. From this, the Training Log materialised.

No 3 Corps undertook a pilot course of the Training Log over a period of three years to ensure the feasibility of this method of training and, in 1977 it was introduced to the Brigade.

A District Training Committee was formed with Dr E W Brentnall, District Surgeon, as its Chairman and in 1978 a State-wide four year planned training programme was implemented. The first phase of this programme was the satisfactory completion of a Training Log.

The programme, set out in easy stages, dealt in detail with First Aid procedures and took the following form:

1. **February/March:** An article on a specific subject was circulated for Brigade members to read, study, understand, and learn. Discussion of the article within the Division was recommended and members were encouraged to practise the procedures in their Divisions, step by step, and to apply them when on duty.
2. Attached to the article were ten questions highlighting important points. Answers to these questions were required to be produced at the Division's Annual Re-examination.
3. **April:** A sample marking sheet was distributed, covering subjects dealt with. It was suggested that training sessions be developed within Divisions, supported by Corps Staff and Divisional Medical, Nursing and Ambulance Officers, so that articles previously circulated could be revised. Colour slides, together with plastic wounds for realism, were available to assist members in recognising relevant physical signs.
4. **August:** Marking sheets were distributed to Divisions, covering a number of simple practical incidents. It was suggested that members should follow the guidelines and practise dealing with these incidents. It was expected, by this time, that Divisions would have obtained plastic wounds of

their own, and should have at least one person trained in casualty simulation.

5. **Annual Examination Requirements:**

(a) Completed written answers to the questions, attached to the circulated article, to be handed to Corps Surgeon. (If written answers were not available, the Corps Surgeon would ask the questions orally on the night of the Re-examination.)

(b) Based on articles circulated and studied, a member was expected to deal with a small, uncomplicated incident.

At annual Re-examinations, competition type sets were erected, depicting incidents, and casualties were presented with very realistic looking injuries, thereby familiarising members with what to expect when confronted with a real emergency. Confidence was increased as full responsibility for the management of an incident was accepted.

On completion of all sections of the Training Log, it was then presented to the Divisional Superintendent who signed it, if satisfied with the member's performance and general knowledge of the subject. In this way, responsibility for the member's efficiency was transferred to the Divisional Superintendent and, should the standard required at the time of re-examination not be reached, the Divisional Superintendent would be asked for an explanation of the member's failure. The Log had to be signed by an Examining Officer before the member could proceed to the next phase of training.

In due course, teething problems with acceptance and adoption of the Log for training purposes were overcome. Now, everyone fulfilling a duty with its responsibility for the care of casualties, can do so knowing they have been as fully trained as other Brigade members and have first-hand knowledge of the practical use of up-to-date First Aid equipment.

The discrepancies and differences in former methods of training adopted by the various Divisions were attributable to several factors. These included the fact that-

(a) Some Divisions were not sufficiently financial to buy the sophisticated equipment, essential for the proper teaching of resuscitation.

(b) Lectures and training methods given to Divisions were not standardised.

(c) Some Divisions lacked appointed Divisional Surgeons, Nursing Officers or Ambulance Officers to direct training.

Under the Training Log scheme, expert tuition became accessible to all Divisions from a Training Team comprising Dr Frank Archer, Sister Barbara Davis, District Ambulance Officer Peter McMurtrie and Corps Ambulance Training Officer George Hood. Equipment was also made available for practice purposes, where required. Those who instigated the Training Log, and worked so hard to have it acknowledged, are to be congratulated on a job well done.

The annual Re-examination of Brigade members required them to qualify in both First Aid and Patient Care. So great, however, was the rejection of Patient Care by Ambulance personnel, it has remained a compulsory subject for women and a desirable, though not essential, course of study for men. For a mixed male and female team entering State or National Competitions, all members must hold the necessary qualifications in both First Aid and Patient Care.

It seems strange that, even with so many men electing to take up nursing as a career; so many husbands anxious to be with their wives during childbirth; the high cost of hospitalisation; the shortage of hospital beds; the absence from home and family of a working wife, and the fact that older relatives are living longer and in need of care, St John Ambulance male personnel are reluctant to arm themselves with the knowledge and expertise

so necessary if they are called upon to cope with any home care contingency.

Training efforts and study are undertaken by members with one sole aim, *ie* to become a good,

or better, First Aider. No matter how much knowledge is acquired, it is of little use if it cannot be applied practically.

Competitions:

To prepare members for doing just this, competitions are held annually and Divisions train and prepare teams, and an individual competitor, to represent them in Corps Competitions. The winning teams and individuals from the six Corps and Regions compete against each other in the State Championship Competition, the winners representing Victoria in the Australian Championship Competition, which forms part of the programme for the Priory Meetings held in June of the following year.

Those representing Victoria in the Australian Championships are assisted in their training by members of the Training Team and many other professional members of the Brigade, who make every effort to bring the work of the competitors to a very high standard.

Competitions mean a great deal of work and pressure for those participating but the experience gained, makes the time, study and effort worth while, especially with the knowledge that self-control is not lost when confronted with a casualty or casualties convincingly presented to create realistic emergencies. Divisions with members training for Competitions also benefit, in that the standard of proficiency in the Division is raised.

The format for Competitions has been changed over the years. Originally a team consisted of four members. As Divisions were initially not combined, the tests for Nursing Division teams comprised First Aid, Home Nursing (or Patient Care as it is now known) - oral and practical - and Roller Bandaging. Teams of Ambulance members, however, were tested in First Aid (with provided

materials), First Aid (using improvised materials) and Transportation. The practical work was carried out by the whole team. Today, teams consist of three members only, either all male, all female, or a mixed male and female group. The tests have also been amended and now comprise - First Aid (all three members); Patient Care (two members only); and Patient Care (one member only). The competition for the Individual Section has not been drastically altered.

Originally, Ambulance and Nursing Sections of the Brigade represented their District in the Australian Championship Competitions in alternate years. Since the advent of Combined Divisions, however, this practice has been discontinued. The Competition regulations have been amended to cater for both male and female competitors in events as outlined for Teams, and to allow male and female representatives to compete against each other in Individual events.

The standard of performance is naturally high, as team and individual representatives in the Australian Championship Competitions are the best each State can produce. Winning is not easy. Everyone was ecstatic when a team from the Ormond Nursing Division won the National Championship Competitions in Hobart, Tasmania, in 1966. This was the first time a Nursing team had brought the Championship trophy to Victoria. Not to be outdone by the nurses, a team of men from the South Melbourne Ambulance Division repeated the performance in Perth, WA, in 1967 and became National Champions for that year.

In 1968 a hat trick was achieved, when a team from the Caulfield Nursing Division brought success to Victoria by winning the Australian National Championship competitions held in Canberra, ACT. Many years passed before Victoria again featured as winners of the National Championships. In 1983, however, a team from the South Melbourne Combined Division again proved victorious. Their effort was of special significance, as 1983 was the year the Centenary of the Order of St John in Australia was being celebrated, and Victoria was host to many overseas and interstate visitors. Great interest was shown in the Championships and competition was exceptionally keen. Again, in 1985, a team from the South Melbourne/Melbourne

Combined Division competed at Darwin, NT, and won the Australian National Championship competitions staged there.

Trophies presented for State and National Competitions are engraved with details of the winners, for all to see, and these symbols of achievement are proudly held for twelve months. Homage is paid to all members who have given of their best, over the years, in representing the District in the Australian Championship Competitions, but mentioned especially below are those who brought trophies back to Victoria:

Teams

Year	Venue	Division	Competitors
1966	Hobart, Tas	Ormond Nursing	Sgt Margaret Briggs - Capt Cpl Patricia Penduck Amb/Sr Valerie Greene
1967	Perth, WA	South Melbourne Ambulance	Cpl Brian Cantlon Pte Peter J Burke Pte R L Sterck
1968	Canberra, ACT	Caulfield Nursing	Sgt June McRae Cpl Bonnie Cook Pte Patricia Henig
1983	Melbourne, Vic	South Melbourne Combined	Div Off Lindy Havin - Capt Sgt Francis Chapman N/M Fiona Smith
1985	Darwin, NT	South Melbourne/ Melbourne Combined	Peter Bailey - Capt Fiona Smith Gerard Green Amanda Burke - Emergency

Individuals

Year	Venue	Division	Competitor
***1970	Melbourne, Vic	Footscray Nursing	Mrs Hazel Buttons
1973	Hobart, Tas	Waverley/Camberwell	Sgt Brett Hume
1977	Brisbane, Qld	Diamond Valley	Cpl Graham Cocks
(***) this was the first time this trophy was won by Victoria)			



Dr George Mapstone with cadets at the Moomba march in 1975.



Mrs Marilyn Watson, Colac Division, 1979



Julie Healey, Dandenong Division, Individual Nursing winner in 1978, with Dr Peter Bush.



Kitty Davies, State Individual Champion, 1977.



Sisters Barbara Davis and Hilda Frost adjudicate the Nursing Competitions in 1974.



Dr Peter Bush presents trophies to Ormond Nursing members who won all events.



Dr Peter Bush presenting trophy to Broadmeadows team, 1978.



Dr Peter Bush presenting trophy to the South Melbourne team, 1978.



Dr Arthur Burton meets participants in the Nursing Cadet Competitions.

COUNTRY CADET COMPETITIONS, GEELONG WEST 1974



Junior Individual Cdt D.Musselwhite, Colac



Senior Individual Cdt C.Hall, Casterton



Warrnambool Team



Winner of Senior Individual Cdt B.Bonarx



D/Sup.(C) A.Drayton & Corps. Off(C) T.Daley



Sebastopol Senior Team

CADETS

Teams

Year	Venue	Division	Competitors
1971	Hobart, Tas	Broadmeadows Nursing Cadet	Pamela O'Brien Kristine Wyatt Marjorie Canham
1980	Mt Evelyn, Vic	Waverley Ambulance Cadet	Ian Whitehead H Perkins M Ciminelli
1981	Adelaide, SA	Waverley	Christine East Ruth Nettleton Romani Robb

Individual

Year	Venue	Division	Competitor
1980	Mt Evelyn, Vic	Sale Ambulance Cadet	Glenn Anderson

Cadet Leader

Year	Venue	Division	Competitor
1980	Mt Evelyn, Vic	Malvern Ambulance Cadet	J Barton
1983	Sydney, NSW	Waverley	Anne-Marie Woulfe

Training Weekend - Monash University

Program

Saturday 13 July 1968		Lecturer
0945 hrs	Official Opening	District Officer Phelan
1000 hrs	Resuscitation and Intensive Care	Dr Noel Mackie
1100 hrs	Morning Tea	
1130 hrs	Management of traumatic and burn wounds	Mr Leo Rozner
1230 hrs	Lunch	
1400 hrs	Road Accidents	Dr John Birrell (Police Surgeon)
1500 hrs	Afternoon Tea	
1530 hrs	Orthopaedic management of acute injuries to limbs and spine	Mr Peter Kudelka
1630 hrs	Adjourn	

Sunday 14 July 1968		Lecturer
0930 hrs	Psychological aspects of disaster	Dr Alex Sinclair
1030 hrs	Morning tea	
1100 hrs	Head injuries	Mr Peter Petty
1200 hrs	Childbirth and film	Dr Peter Bush
1300 hrs	Lunch	
1400 hrs	Quiz session	Dr Peter Bush
1500 hrs	Conclusion and final assessment	District Officer Phelan
1530 hrs	Afternoon Tea	

SEMINARS

Date:	12-13 July 1969
Venue:	Monash University
Opened by:	District Superintendent (Admin) Mr M D Phelan
Chairman:	Dr J P Bush, District Surgeon

Programme

Lecturer	Subject
Dr Tony Ryan	Injuries in traffic crashes
Dr Bruce Crawford	Eye injuries
Mr Robert Cook	Facial injuries
Assistant Commissioner (Police) Mr Ron Braybrook	Incident control (Police angle)
Mr Andrew Moffatt	Development of the principles of incident control
Mr Ian McConchie	Chest injuries
Mr David Burke	Spinal injuries

Date:	11-12 July 1970
Venue:	Monash University
Opened by:	District Commissioner, Dr A W Burton

Programme

Lecturer	Subject
Dr J E Donovan	Resuscitation
District Supt (A) Mr M D Phelan	Rescue around the world
Dr David Cheshire	Spinal injuries
Assistant Commissioner (Police) Mr Ron Braybrook	Incident control
Mr Donald Marshall	Burns and flesh wounds
Dr Hale	Coronary heart disease

Date:	1971 - possibly July
Venue:	Monash University

Opened by:	District Commissioner, Dr H H Jackson
Chairman:	Dr J P Bush, District Surgeon
Present:	Almost 600 including representatives from Australian Red Cross Society, Victoria Civil Ambulance, Victoria Police Force, Victoria Railways, Country Fire Authority, Civil Defence Organisation, Harbour Trust, YMCA, Esso Oil

Programme

Lecturer	Subject
Professor Coats	Resuscitation
Mr Peter Jones	Injuries to children
Mr David Burke	Spinal injuries
Mr Peter Petty (Neuro-Surgeon)	Head Injuries
Dr Trinca	Snakebites
Mr Allan Beech	Priorities and transport of patient problems

Date:	17-18 June 1972
Venue:	Monash University
Opened by:	District Commissioner, Dr A W Burton (recently appointed Chief Surgeon for Australia)
Chairman:	Dr JP Bush, District Surgeon (recently appointed Deputy Commissioner)
Present:	Over 650 registrations received for the weekend
Visitors:	Australian Red Cross Society, Victoria Police, Victorian Civil Ambulance, State Electricity Commission, Country Fire Authority and Victorian Railways.
Accommodation:	Three lecture theatres linked by closed-circuit television.

Programme:

Lecturer	Subject
Dr AW Burton	Travels overseas and St John activities in other countries
Mr John Dawson (Surgeon, Prince Henry's Hospital, Melb)	Thoracic surgery
Dr June Howqua	First aid and management of cardiac arrest
Dr David Gale	Eye emergencies
Mr Ian Taylor (Plastic Surgeon)	Small wounds
Dr Richard Ball	Drugs of addiction
Dr J P Bush District Officer Mr H Woodall Assist.Commissioner Operations, Mr Miller, Victoria Police	"Post mortem on Sunbury"
Mr J Hooper	Compound fractures
Dr David Burke	Lifting a spinal injury patient

Date:	17-18 July 1976
Venue:	Melbourne State College, Carlton
Present:	Approximately 240 representing 46 Divisions including 12 country Divisions

Programme:

Lecturer	Subject
Mr Alan Watkins (Vic Civil Ambulance)	Triage and the assessment of the severity of injuries at site of accident
Dr Mary Brooksbank	Burns
Dr Jeff Mander (Orthopaedic Surgeon)	Treatment of fractures and sprains
Dr Nye (Neuro Surgeon)	Head injuries and management of the unconscious patient
Broadmeadows Division	Demonstration of the new "Recording Resusci-Anne"
Dr Brian Galbally	Resuscitation
Mr Allan Beech	Vascular problems
Dr David Burke (Director Spinal Unit Austin Hospital)	Problems associated with spinal injuries
Dr Hurst	Poisons

Date :	1977
Venue:	Victoria Police Academy, Glen Waverley
Present:	Over 200 Brigade members - many country divisions represented

Programme:

Lecturer	Subject
Mr John Dawson (Thoracic Surgeon, Box Hill & District Hospital)	Chest injuries
Div Supt G Lacey	Communications
Dr J P Bush	Brigade trends overseas
Dr P Hardy-Smith (Consultant Ophthalmologist Box Hill & District Hosp)	Eye emergencies
Dist Supt R Green	Brigade administration and future activities
Mr David Brownbill (Neuro-Surgeon Royal Melb Hospital)	Neuro-surgical cases
Mr R Simms (Orthopaedic Surgeon Austin & Box Hill District Hospital)	Minor orthopaedic injuries
District Officer B Davenport	Brigade finances, financial administration and forthcoming Appeal

Date:	5-6 August 1978
Venue:	Victoria Police Academy, Glen Waverley

Programme:

Lecturer	Subject
Captain Mike Olsen (Seattle Para-Medic Institute)	The CPR community training scheme
Film	Heart attack
Mr Allan McLeod (St Vincent's Hospital)	Amputated limb injuries
Dr Struan Sutherland (Director of Immunology Research Commonwealth Serum Laboratories)	Management of bites and stings from snakes and other venomous creatures
Colonel Ben O'Dowd (Victorian State Emergency Service)	Films of Granville train disaster. Discussion of role of State Emergency Services today
Div Supt Vic Joyce	Planning, preparing and teaching a class
Films	"Burns emergency" and "Trauma patients"
Sister Noel Pink (Charge Sister, Accident and Emergency Department Box Hill & District Hospital) and Sister B Lovell (Royal District Nursing Service)	Nursing the acutely ill patient

Brigade Conference

One of the highlights of the Centenary Celebrations was the Brigade Conference held at the Exhibition Conference Centre on Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 June 1983. The theme of the Conference was 'GETTING BETTER' and the detailed programme was as under:

Monday 20 June 1983

8.45am - 10.00am	Arrival/Registration
10.00am - 10.30am	Introduction by Chief Commissioner
10.30am - 11.00am	HEAD INJURIES - Mr David Brownbill, Senior Neurosurgeon, Royal Melbourne Hospital
11.00am - 11.30 am	SOFT TISSUE INJURIES - Dr Barry Oakes, Senior Lecturer, Dept of Anatomy, Monash University
11.30am - 12.30pm	Group Discussions
12.30pm - 1.45pm	Lunch - Trade Display - Competition
1.45pm - 2.05pm	SJAB - Direction for the Future - Dr J Peter Bush, Chief Surgeon, St John Ambulance Brigade
2.05pm - 3.00pm	Discussion Groups
3.00pm - 3.20pm	Afternoon Tea
3.20pm - 4.05pm	Practical Workshops 1-6
4.15pm - 5.00pm	Practical Workshops 1-6
8.00pm	ST JOHN ORATION - Mr P S London - "First Aid and its variations in time, place and technique"

Tuesday 21 June 1983

8.45am - 9.00am	Assembly/Registration
9.00am - 9.45am	Practical Workshops 1-6
9.45am - 10.40am	Practical Workshops 1-6
10.40am - 11.00am	Morning tea
11.00am - 11.45am	Practical Workshops 1-6
11.45am - 12.40pm	Practical Workshops 1-6
12.40pm - 1.30pm	Lunch - Trade display - Photographic Competition
1.30pm - 2.00pm	INFECTION CONTROL - Sister Loxton
2.00pm - 2.30pm	THE LONG LYING PATIENT - Sister Beth Dawson, Chief Superintendent (Nursing) SJAB
2.30pm - 3.30pm	Group discussions
4.30pm	Close and afternoon tea

Practical Workshops

1. Live demonstration related to chest injuries and oxygen therapy.
2. Heart dissection (demonstration) related to heart disease and CPR
3. Joint dissection (demonstration) related to joint injuries.
4. Anatomy of the back demonstration related to the prevention of back injuries.
5. Microbiology demonstration related to infection control.
6. "Prevention Workshop" related to the role of SJAB members.

Seminars

In view of the fact that, in emergency situations, members of St John Rescue Squads and Mobile Nursing could be confronted by casualties requiring special care, it was realised that, to enable them to cope confidently and efficiently at all times, more advanced training must be made available. To this end, weekend Seminars were arranged at intervals, the first being held at Monash University on the 13-14 July 1968.

As may be seen from programmes reproduced, lectures covered a wide range of subjects and were given by speakers prominent in their fields of work. Tribute is paid to these lecturers who voluntarily gave of their time to assist the work of St John.

While the original object of the weekend Seminars was to upgrade the knowledge and skills of members of Rescue and Mobile Nursing, it was soon realised that the Brigade generally could benefit. Subsequent Seminars were, therefore, opened to all members of adult Divisions, which gave Brigade members throughout Victoria the opportunity to meet together and to share the pleasure and benefit of hearing experienced senior lecturers speak on subjects of interest, inter-related with the work of the Brigade. The lectures were invariably enhanced by coloured slides, or films, which illustrated and emphasised important points.

These lectures proved invaluable, as Brigade members were able to fully appreciate the importance and value of good First Aid when slides were viewed and explanations given of the follow-up hospital treatment of casualties.

Invitations were also extended to organisations such as the Victoria Police, Country Fire Authority, State Electricity Commission, Victorian Civil Ambulance Service, Victorian Railways, Harbour Trust, Civil Defence, Young Men's Christian Association, and the Red Cross Society, permitting representatives to attend these Seminars.

The facilities of Monash University were utilised for these training sessions for a number of years. This was indeed fortunate as, on the 11 and 12 July 1970 several hundred persons attended, and the Audio Visual Aids Department of the University kindly made available in excess of \$150,000 worth of television and projection equipment so that the entire proceedings could be televised from the lecture room into two adjoining rooms. This enabled all present to be seated comfortably and to follow the programme without difficulty.

Under the competent leadership of Divisional Superintendent Geoff Lacey, an Audio Visual Team of 13 Brigade members provided the

excellent television coverage, expertly guided by Graham Askew and his crew from Monash.

Many training weekends have since been held at the Victoria Police Academy at Glen Waverley where participants enjoyed admirable programmes of lectures, films and demonstrations. In addition, the Academy provided morning and afternoon tea and a most welcome hot lunch. The Sunday session commenced with a Church Service in the Academy's lovely Chapel and many thanks are due to the late District Superintendent Derek Bateman for the facilities and accommodation which so many of us enjoyed.

When the Order of St John celebrated its centenary of service in Australia in 1983, a Brigade Conference and Oration took place at the

Exhibition Conference Centre, Melbourne, on the 20 and 21 June; immediately preceding the Annual Priory Chapter Meetings. The program covering these two days is reproduced at the commencement of this section on seminars and details of it and the Oration by Mr Peter London are referred to in a later chapter.

The program was enthusiastically received by all who attended, especially the contribution from Dr Frank Archer and Dr Robyn Anker who produced a magnificent film depicting the cardio-pulmonary activity in a rat. Dr Anker utilised the equipment of the Pathology Department at Monash University where she is employed and, again, the facilities of the University were involved in a St John training program and are acknowledged with great appreciation.

Experimental Family Division

During the period when recruiting was disappointing and efforts were being made to maintain membership of the Brigade, an exciting experiment was implemented at Cranbourne, which took the form of a "Family Division". Its progress was monitored closely. The position came about in the following way -

Mrs Dot Hutchings, Superintendent of Dandenong Nursing Cadet Division, expressed a desire to start a Nursing Cadet Division at Cranbourne, an outer Melbourne area, as a number of the Cadets lived in that vicinity and accommodation was available for meetings at the Cranbourne Race Club.

Energetic fund-raising activities began, including two Cabarets, an Old Time Dance, a Film Night, Street Stalls, and catering for a Gymkhana. When these fund-raising activities are combined with duties fulfilled at the Greyhounds, Gymkhanas, Trots, VRC Race Meetings, Netball etc., it is obvious Cranbourne Nursing Cadet Division had much initiative, drive and determination behind it.

The Nursing Cadet Division having been formed, parents and others who provided transport for the

girls often remained and, in doing so, became interested in Brigade training and activities. As a result, permission was obtained from Headquarters to start a "Family Division", on an experimental basis only. The Division, at that time, comprised Ambulance, Ambulance Cadet, Nursing and Nursing Cadet members.

On the 28 November 1978, twelve months after its formation, Divisional Superintendent Mrs D Hutchings was presented with the registration papers for the Division by the District Commissioner Dr J.P.Bush, and District Officer (Nursing) Mrs M.Reid read the Charter. At that time, Cranbourne Division had 7 senior members and 16 Cadets.

Cranbourne Family Division proved by its successful operation that adults and Cadets could work well together and, under the leadership of Divisional Superintendent Mr L Wylie and Divisional Officer Mrs Wylie, the Division still flourishes. The Divisions mentioned below are also registered as "Family" or "Combined (Adult/Cadet)" Divisions and all are functioning well:-

Tramways Division,	Mr P Mitchell	Divisional Superintendent
Northcote Division	Mr T Duncan	Divisional Superintendent
Malvern/Hawthorn Division,	Mrs D Niggemeyer	Divisional Superintendent
Richmond Division,	Miss D Bache	Divisional Superintendent

"Family Divisions" seemed an appropriate name for these Divisions, but as this did not prove a popular choice with other States, they are more frequently known as "Combined (Adult/Cadet)" Divisions. In the United Kingdom, they are known as Quadrilateral Divisions.

Nursing Divisions:

An article which appeared in "The Age" newspaper on the 7 December 1946, titled "Women of the St John Ambulance Brigade" summed up the situation by stating -

"A small group of women in Victoria (there are only about 120 of them) is doing, in the most unspectacular way, with the minimum of public recognition, one of the most humane, selfless and useful services the community is privileged to receive. These women form the Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade and, in their inconspicuous uniforms, with black and white hat-band bearing a white 8-pointed star on a black ground, they are here, there and everywhere, rendering their trained service in First Aid.

In many of the duties they perform they are not seen by the public at all, only by the individuals they help. Behind the scenes at every large race meeting, at cricket matches (they will be on the job in strength when the Test is played in Melbourne) on the beaches, at carnivals and street processions, in picture theatres; in fact, everywhere where large crowds of people meet, the women of the St John Ambulance Brigade Nursing Division are on duty.

At all these public functions, First Aid Posts are set up and staffed by the St John women. While it is the men of the organisation who receive the public attention as they carry cases into the Post, it is the women who do the behind the scenes job of giving these cases the treatment they need....."

This vital work, made possible by the preparedness of women to undertake training and to give their time voluntarily for the benefit of others, has earned them great respect in the community. The standards set by those women in 1946 are still maintained to the present day, at a high level.

With the passage of time, changes have been effected:

Uniforms have been altered several times, not only to keep pace with fashion trends, but to preserve a trim, smart appearance of members.

Training methods have been modernised by the use of films, slides, manikins, up-to-date resuscitative equipment etc.

Knowledge has advanced with modern technology.

Communication is co-ordinated at duties and in times of emergency by a well-established, highly trained Communications Division.

Transportation has improved. Many Divisions have well-equipped Mobile First Aid Units which operate as First Aid Posts at duties. In many instances, the vehicles are not only the responsibility of, but are driven by Nursing personnel.

Despite the fact that they are not large in number, the services performed by the Nursing section are frequently of great magnitude and it is often a point of wonderment that so much can be done by so few.

Attention need only be drawn to the public duties to realise how busy Brigade personnel are at times such as the Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusade at the Melbourne Cricket Ground involving 143,000 people; to the thousands of people who line the streets of Melbourne to welcome Royal visitors; to support special occasions such as the Papal tour; to view parades, to watch sporting fixtures - football, cricket, tennis, athletics, the Olympic Games; the Fun Runs; Moomba; Pop Festivals etc.

Public duties are a team effort with all sections of the Brigade working together. This is where the strength lies and forms a strong basis for success.

In 1951, when membership of the Nursing Divisions was at a low level, the Commissioner, Colonel A Sherwin, wrote to the Priory Commissioner reporting his concern at the deterioration in strength and effectiveness of the Nursing Divisions and mentioned his unsuccessful efforts to stimulate interest and to recruit new members. Subject to approval being given, he proposed the following reorganisation of the Nursing section of the Brigade in Victoria:-

1. The retirement of women Officers and members over 65 years of age.
2. The disbandment of Nursing Divisions which are so weak in strength as to be non-effective and where there is little prospect of recovery.
3. The suspension of the appointment of "Lady District Superintendent" until the number of

Divisions and numerical strength warrants its restoration.

4. The appointment of a "Lady District Officer" to supervise the work of the Nursing Divisions and Nursing Cadets during the period of reconstruction.
5. The institution of a recruiting campaign with a view to building up the strength of remaining Nursing Divisions.
6. The reorganisation to take effect on 1 July 1951.

A great deal of attention was given to the restructuring of the Nursing section of the Brigade and several administrative alterations were tried, over a period of years. Effective from 1 January 1960, for instance, the Nursing Divisions were to be grouped into two sections, each under the direction of a District Officer (Nursing), who, in turn, would be responsible to the District Superintendent. These were:-

Section 1		Section 2	
D/O Miss L Peverill		D/O Mrs A Crerar	
No. 1 Corps	Geelong	No. 2 Corps	Ballarat
No. 3 Corps	Footscray		South Melbourne
	Williamstown		Brighton
	Yarraville		
	Essendon	No. 5 Corps	Caulfield
			Malvern
No. 4 Corps	Melbourne		Oakleigh/ Huntingdale
	YWCA		
	Metropolitan		
No. 6 Corps	Coburg/ Brunswick	No. 7 Corps	Dandenong
	Northcote		Mordialloc
	Richmond		

While District Officers (Nursing) controlled the Nursing section from 1951 to 1967, their administrative powers were limited, in a male dominated organisation, and difficult situations arose from time to time. The appointment of a District Superintendent (Nursing) was resumed in 1967 with Dr Mary Irvine in this position, and members felt that their requirements would now stand a better chance of receiving the consideration and attention they warranted.

Again, effective from 1 February 1972, a further reorganisation took place. The Nursing Divisions of Victoria District instead of being member Divisions of the existing six Combined Corps, were formed into two separate Nursing Corps to be known as North and South Nursing Corps. These were constituted as follows:-

North Nursing Corps

District Officer: Miss T Peverill, CSt J

Corps Superintendent: Mrs G Hulls, CSt J

Divisions:

City of Melbourne

Richmond

Footscray

Essendon

Coburg/ Brunswick

Northcote

Broadmeadows

Geelong

South Nursing Corps

District Officer: Mrs M Davenport, SSStJ supervising

Corps Superintendent: Miss J Robinson, OSt J

Divisions -

Boronia Basin

Caulfield

Ormond

Waverley

Dandenong

As this experiment did not prove as successful as was anticipated, the Nursing section was again reorganised, in 1973, this time into six Corps. This arrangement proved satisfactory and functioned smoothly over the years.

Now that so many Ambulance and Nursing Divisions have joined forces and have become Combined Divisions, the present (1986) Brigade structure comprises 6 Metropolitan Corps and 5 Regional Areas, which include all sections of the Brigade.

Members of the Nursing section were very loyal to, and supportive of their Officers. No matter what demands were made of them, they always met the challenge.

Duties were faithfully carried out and, while all who were involved in major public emergencies gave their utmost in helping and caring for casualties, the outstanding work of several Nursing members brought public recognition in the form of Awards.

Despite the fact that Nursing members invariably had family and home responsibilities with which to contend, time was somehow found for the extra study and training required to compete in the First Aid and Nursing Competitions held annually in the State, with the winning team and Individual competitor representing Victoria in the Australia Championship Competitions. Prior to the amalgamation of Ambulance and Nursing Divisions, these two sections of the Brigade

alternated as State representatives in the Australia Championship Competitions- one year an all male competition; the next, an all female competition. This segregation of the sexes no longer applies, as Ambulance and Nursing members may now

combine to form teams and Competition Regulations are set nationally.

In 1987, the Brigade was again restructured. Details have been set out in a previous chapter.

Cadet Section

Ambulance Cadets :

No matter what the purpose of an organisation (be it business, service, or social) it is essential to have a continuous supply of manpower. If the organisation's operation cannot be maintained, it will eventually cease to function. Most voluntary organisations were having membership problems as a result of a world-wide depression in the early 1930s. As far as the Brigade was concerned, it was imperative that something be done to remedy the situation.

Cadet Divisions were formed in the United Kingdom, in 1922, where boys of 11 years and over were not only trained in First Aid, but also participated in other exciting activities. It was decided that a similar movement could be the solution to the problem of manpower in Australia, by having trained boys who could assist in public duties and, when the age limit for Cadets (18 yrs) was reached, would become eligible for transfer to adult Divisions.

The first Ambulance Cadet Division in Victoria was formed at Richmond in 1930, its Superintendent being Mr W Sterling. Williamstown Cadet Division was the next to be registered. Over the years, the Cadets have developed into a very strong section of the Brigade. Their dedicated and enthusiastic Officers are able to communicate with young people, and stimulate their interest in the work of St John.

The founder of the Cadet Movement in Victoria, as indicated above, was Mr Walter Sterling.

- Mr Sterling was succeeded by Mr Harry Pascoe as District Officer in charge of Cadets
- Mr Pascoe was succeeded by Mr Ashley Mason as District Officer in charge of Cadets
- Mr Mason was succeeded by Mr Richard Bluck as District Officer in charge of Cadets
- Mr Bluck was succeeded by Mr Donald L Fraser as District Officer in charge of Cadets
- Mr Fraser was succeeded by Mr Hugh Smith as District Officer in charge of Cadets
- Mr Smith was succeeded by Sr Kaye Woods as District Officer in charge of Cadets.

Sir James Lewis Sleeman, Commissioner-in-Chief of the St John Ambulance Brigade Overseas, visited Australia during his tour of inspection of the work of St John Overseas. Sir James, based in London, was the guest of Victoria in March 1936. The itinerary he undertook was a demanding one and only a very fit person could have completed it. In Australia each State was included and it was amazing how much Sir James fitted into each visit. He was a very capable, shrewd man who made intelligent assessments of the strengths and weaknesses of the St John organisation in each State, and was courageous enough to voice disapproval when necessary.

Sir James expressed disappointment with the weak development of the Cadet Movement in Victoria where, as yet, there were no Nursing Cadets. Australia generally, he reported, failed in regard to Cadet Divisions, where less than twenty had been formed. By comparison, New Zealand had over

seventy Divisions. He was also displeased to find Brigade members on parade without uniforms. Despite the fact that the country was experiencing an economic depression, he considered all members should make an effort to find the £5:0:0

(\$10-00) necessary to purchase a uniform. He was well pleased, otherwise, with Victoria and the high standard of discipline and efficiency he found, and with the comradeship which existed between the Brigade Divisions.

Nursing Cadets

In a letter dated 13 December 1946, Colonel J A H Sherwin, Commissioner, Victoria District of the St John Ambulance Brigade Overseas, requested Mrs Ida Freeman, Lady Superintendent of the South Melbourne Nursing Division to nominate, for approval by the Lady District Superintendent, a suitable person in her Division to raise a Nursing Cadet Division. Corporal Coverdale, with two assistants, Beryl Wotherspoon and Peg Tyler, were the names submitted for approval and on 20 March 1947, the first Nursing Cadet Division for Victoria was registered at South Melbourne.

From that time, until 1972 when she was transferred to Reserve, Ida Freeman became involved in Nursing Cadet activities. As a District Officer (Nursing) for a period of 15 years, she devoted most of her time to the development of this section of the Brigade, and its growth and high standard of efficiency is the direct result of her drive, personality and ability.

Over the years, District Officers appointed to be responsible for the Nursing Cadet section were:-

District Officer (N) Mrs Ida Freeman was appointed on 1.4. 1957.

D/O (N) Mrs I Freeman was succeeded by D/O (N) Mrs Minabel Reid in 1972.

D/O (N) Mrs M Reid was succeeded by D/O (N) Mrs Gwladys Hulls in 1976.

D/O (N) Mrs G Hulls was succeeded by D/O (N) Mrs June McRae in 1977.

In 1978, it was decided to combine the Nursing Cadet and Ambulance Cadet administration, and District Officer Mr Donald L Fraser became responsible for all Cadet matters.

D/O Mr D L Fraser was succeeded by D/O Mr H Smith.

D/O Mr H Smith was succeeded by D/O Sister Kaye Woods.

Sir James Sleeman would have been more than pleased with the progress made by both the Ambulance and the Nursing Cadet sections in Victoria as, in 1970, statistics revealed the following:-

Ambulance Cadets			Nursing Cadets		Combined Divisions	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Divisions</i>	<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Divisions</i>	<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Sec.</i>	
1970	43	1230	41	1144	3	11

Since that time, despite difficulties encountered with recruitment - mostly attributable to the changing life style of the community and to the poor state of the economy generally - the Cadets have maintained their section as the strongest in the Brigade numerically. In 1986 their numbers were still increasing.

The objects of the Cadet Movement are:-

- (a) To provide opportunities for boys and girls to learn and practise first aid, home nursing, and other subjects conducive to the training of good citizens.
- (b) To encourage young people to follow the way of life exemplified in the Cadet Code of Chivalry.
- (c) To develop the spirit of combined effort while giving due consideration to the personality of the individual Cadet.
- (d) To promote health.
- (e) To encourage among young people a full and enterprising use of leisure by providing all the facilities of a National Youth Organisation.
- (f) To lay the foundations for membership of the Ambulance and Nursing Divisions of the Brigade.

The Ambulance and Nursing Cadet sections flourished and were a credit to those responsible. Cadets (Ambulance and Nursing) were trained in First Aid and Home Nursing (Patient Care), and Competitions were held to establish the most efficient team and individual competitor in the State, these winners representing Victoria in the Australian Championship Competitions.

In order to convey some idea of the knowledge and competence of Cadets, perhaps it would be a good opportunity to recapitulate here events which formed part of the Ambulance Cadets Australian First Aid Championship held at "The Melba Centre", Mount Evelyn, Victoria, on Saturday 5 January 1980.

The settings for the competition pieces were of a very high standard. Not only were car parts, railway carriages and garden sheds used as "props", but tape recorders added to the realism by providing sound effects.

District Officer Mr Hugh Smith was responsible for the organisation, planning and administration of this Championship Competition, including setting up the pieces. His original presentation of incidents added to the interest of the Competition and his efforts were greatly appreciated.

Teams, comprising three members, worked together in the management of an incident for which a total of 300 marks was allotted. Each team member was then required, as an individual, to cope with another accident situation. A further 100 marks was allowed for each of the three incidents.

Seven States were represented in the Championship Competition, and test pieces and injuries sustained were as follows:-

Team First Aid Test (300 marks):

Briefing:	The team has driven to the home of a country friend. His wife informs you that he left a few minutes ago and directs you to the location where he could be found. After parking your utility at the house and walking along a bush road for about 250 metres you hear the report of a gun and head for the direction from which it came. The weather is fine and warm and the time is now.
Scene & Injuries	<u>Casualty No. 1:</u> Slightly distressed, no injuries. (To be holding shot gun). Shock (slight). <u>Casualty No. 2:</u> Partly hidden by bushes, lying on back, left elbow near rock. Open complicated fracture left thigh (gunshot wound). Closed fracture left elbow. Unconscious (shock).

Team Members' Individual First Aid Tests (3 x 100 Marks):

<u>Member 1:</u>	<u>Briefing</u> - You are visiting a farmer and his wife on a dairy farm which is ten miles from the nearest town and hospital. A child is carrying a bucket of hot water near the milking shed and spills it on his leg. You have your First Aid kit. The farmer and his wife are in the shed.
<u>Member 2:</u>	<u>Briefing</u> - At a camp for young people, several boys were playing cricket and a ball was hit over the fence into a vacant paddock. One lad climbed over the fence to recover the ball and got a large splinter in the inner side of his left leg about 10 cms above the knee. You are engaged elsewhere and have been called to see him half-an-hour later because other people were unable to remove it. The patient asks the First Aider to remove the splinter.
<u>Member 3:</u>	<u>Briefing</u> - You are travelling on an express train to Spencer Street Railway Station. A passenger, seeing you in uniform, approaches you and asks if you could help an elderly gentleman in the next compartment.

In the section of the Championship Competitions created for Individual competitors, the following situation confronted them:-

<u>Briefing:</u>	A Cadet on his way to the Competitions goes in to a roadside house to ask directions. He goes to the garage at the side of the house where there is the sound of a motor cycle.
<u>Scene & Injuries</u>	A man with a wound on his forehead is unconscious on the floor next to the motor cycle. He is asphyxiated by the exhaust fumes and has injured his forehead by hitting it against the cycle as he slumped forward.

Those competing in the Cadet Leader section had to deal with the following incident:-

<u>Briefing:</u>	A young man is working underneath his car in the driveway of his house in a quiet suburban street. The car rolls off its supports and on to the man, pinning him to the ground. An elderly passer-by, hearing the man's cries for help, rushes to his assistance. He struggles to lift the car off the man, managing to do so but, in the effort, slips over on some grease on the ground. No one else is at home in the house. The day is fine and the time is the present. A telephone box is situated on a street corner 50 yards away. No bystanders are present.
------------------	---

Competitors in the Individual and Cadet Leader Sections also had to undergo an oral examination, for which a total of 100 marks was available. The Victorians acquitted themselves well on this occasion, 'scooping the pool' in all sections of the Championship Competitions.

The team, Cadets I Whitehead, A Perkins and M Ciminelli obtained 404 1/2 marks. Western Australia came second with 360 1/2 marks.

The Individual representative, Cadet Glenn Anderson from Sale Ambulance Cadet Division, obtained 315 marks and Western Australia again filled second place with 312 marks.

Cadet Leader John Barton, in Cadet Leader Section, obtained 267 marks, while New South Wales came second with 241 marks.

The competitors studied and trained conscientiously to achieve these wonderful results and deserved fully the high praise and congratulations accorded them. Since the up-dating

of the format of the competitions in recent years, Ambulance Cadets and Nursing Cadets have combined and, if desired, mixed teams may now compete. Prior to this, Nursing Cadets were judged on their ability to cope with both First Aid and

Home Nursing (Patient Care) incidents. For the record, the following are typical Patient Care events:-

<u>Team:</u>	<u>Briefing:</u> Mrs Martin is an elderly lady who is recovering from the 'flu. She is due for her four-hourly antibiotics. Would you please sit her out of bed, make the bed, and give her afternoon tea. Her daughter will call around later and put her back to bed.
<u>Individual:</u>	<u>Briefing:</u> You have been asked to call on Miss Webster who has Bronchitis. She is to have a steam inhalation and to be given her antibiotic tablets.

A special section - for interest purposes only - was included at the State Competitions held at "HMAS Lonsdale", Port Melbourne in 1985, and titled "St John Juniors". This catered for boys and girls eight to eleven years of age who were still too young to become Junior Cadets, and they acquitted themselves very well under strict competition conditions. The scene for their work was set in a room where a lad had suffered an accident, and where there was also a baby in a cot (the baby represented by a large doll). One little chap was horror-stricken when he spotted the baby and was overheard to say to his team captain - "No way am I going to change a nappy, no matter what happens!" Captain - "You'll have to change it if I tell you to!" Team member - "Well, I suppose I'd have to, but I'm not going to like it and I'm not going to wash its bottom!!" All was well, as the "baby" behaved itself and caused no trouble whatsoever.

Many badges may be earned by Cadets and they cover a wide variety of interests, as shown in the illustration on the following page. Providing not more than three proficiency subjects are passed in any one year a Cadet, on attaining success in twelve subjects, becomes eligible for the coveted Grand Prior's Badge which may be worn on the uniform for as long as the holder remains a member of the Brigade.

Training Camps are arranged each year which enable Cadets from different parts of the State to meet and exchange ideas, while Inter-District Camps, hosted by the various States, also provide

opportunities for competitions, discussions, training and drill, thus widening the sphere for friendship and the scope for knowledge. The Douglas Donald Training Camp at Yarra Junction is a popular Cadet Camping site; well-equipped and with excellent facilities.

Over the years, the Cadets have proved excellent ambassadors for the Order of St John.

The history of the Order has been depicted on floats in Moomba and other parades and the Cadets have enthusiastically prepared their costumes and assisted with the floats. They have formed part of Empire Youth Parades; marched in the St John Centenary Parade in Melbourne, in 1983; produced a Drum Band capable of performing the "Piling of the Drums" ceremony, and have been involved in the "Play It Safe" Campaign. Each year they form part of an impressive youth Guard of Honour along the Forecourt of the Shrine of Remembrance as ex-servicemen and women march and pay homage to comrades on Anzac Day, and the presence of Ambulance and Nursing Cadets at public duties ensures support for adult members at First Aid Posts, thus increasing the efficiency of the service to the community.

For the first time since the establishment of Cadet Divisions in Australia, efforts were made to raise sufficient funds to enable an Ambulance Cadet and a Nursing Cadet to travel to England as Australian representatives at the International Golden Jubilee of the St John Ambulance Brigade on the Isle of Wight, commencing on 30 July 1972. Ambulance

Cadet Rayner Bechmann and Nursing Cadet Wendy Lake, both members of Divisions at St Albans, were chosen for this trip.

The visit by these Cadets proved so successful that it was decided Victoria District should be represented at further International Training Camps. On 6 August 1977, Ambulance Cadet Timothy Toohey of the Malvern/Hawthorn Ambulance Cadet Division, and Nursing Cadet Lindy Boyd of the St Kilda Nursing Cadet Division accompanied by Divisional Officer Andy McQuade of the St Albans Ambulance Cadet Division, excitedly flew to England to attend the London District St John Ambulance Brigade Centenary Camp and the International Training Convention at Mytchett. Tim and Lindy brought back a wealth of information which was readily shared with others.

As a result, when another International Training Convention took place at Mytchett from the 9-23 August 1980, it was decided that Corps Officer (Cadets) Sr Lesley Self, Divisional Officer (N/C), Susanne Penaluna, of the Broadmeadows Nursing Cadet Division, and Cadet Leader Debra Porter of Ringwood Nursing Cadet Division would be assisted by Victoria District to be our representatives at the Convention.

The aim of the Convention is stated as "by means of training sessions and social activities to enable members of the Brigade from countries at home and overseas to exchange ideas and further the sense of friendship which already exists." The programme was to include visits to a number of places of historical, cultural and educational interest, as well as a visit to a seaside resort. The Convention would consist of 180 delegates: 90 from the United Kingdom and 90 from countries overseas.

The written reports and information shared by our representatives on their return to Australia, show a clear insight into the purpose of the Convention. On the other hand, constructive criticism of the programme and arrangements generally must prove advantageous for organisers of future activities.

Without doubt, the opportunity of mixing with St John personnel of other nationalities; comparing methods of treatment of casualties and taking part in training sessions and exercises has broadened the outlook of our representatives and was deemed a wonderful experience and success.

Awareness was also increased of the fact that it did not matter which country was involved; all were part of the world-wide family of St John, membership of which was equally shared. These experiences powerfully demonstrated to these young people the truth of the aphorism that: 'The sun never sets on St John'.

As 1985 was International Youth Year, it was felt that Australia should be represented at the St John International Youth Year Cadet Camp to be held in Wales during July.

In order to ensure the best representatives were chosen, each State was asked to present one Ambulance Cadet Leader and one Nursing Cadet Leader to a Selection Board at the Australian Cadet Camp at Mount Evelyn in January 1985.

A marking system was adopted by the Board, and the Cadet Leaders from New South Wales were proclaimed winners of the coveted trip to the United Kingdom. However, the Victorian representatives were only half a mark behind, and while they were pleased at having done so well, the disappointment of being so close was overwhelming.

After due consideration, it was agreed that in view of the significance of International Youth Year, and providing the additional finance could be found, Australia would send four representatives overseas, subject to such an arrangement being acceptable to the St John authorities in the United Kingdom.

This was how Ann-Marie Fry and Steven Walker from the New South Wales District, and Natalie Ruzeu and Douglas Monaghan from Victoria District, had the opportunity to meet Cadets from other countries, thus enabling them to:

- (a) Compare all facets of the St John organisation as it operated elsewhere.
- (b) Exchange ideas.
- (c) Discuss problems
- (d) Form lasting friendships.
- (e) Establish on-going communication with members of the Brigade in other countries.
- (f) Arrange to exchange up-to-date information on various subjects.
- (g) Live and work with Cadets from other countries, overcoming language barriers.
- (h) Appreciate fully that they were members of the world-wide family of St John.

The countries participating in the activities sponsored by the Priory of Wales were:

Australia	Malta
Barbados	Mauritius
Canada	New Zealand
England	Northern Ireland
Guernsey	Wales
Hong Kong	South Africa
Ireland	Zimbabwe

Our Cadets were excellent ambassadors for Australia and were pleased to find that their uniforms were admired and praised for both smartness and practicality, while the shoulder flash was considered the most “intelligent” flash ever seen.

In view of the fact that Australia has, for some time, sought suggestions for an acceptable change of name for the Brigade, it is interesting to note the comments of Ann-Marie and Steven in their report:-

“The Order in the UK is undergoing an identity crisis at present with the public not knowing which religious group these people called “St John” belong to. It is now the goal of Staff Officers in London to reintroduce the word “Ambulance” into regular usage once more. This is a trap of rationalisation we must not fall into in the future.”

Among the many experiences which will remain with our representatives was the effect of the Australian accent and speech on others. Evidently, the television “soapie” - “A Country Practice” was being shown in the United Kingdom and Cadets were eager to hear someone from Australia speak. They were captivated by the Australian accent and “Giddy” became extremely popular.

There is absolutely no doubt that Cadets who have travelled overseas have returned with information and knowledge which has proved of great value to the Order of St John in Australia. As well as passing on training methods and ideas, their association with Cadets from other countries has, above all else, given them a greater appreciation of Australian methods and conditions.

The Cadet Section is run on parallel lines to the Adult Section of the Brigade therefore, when Cadets eventually transfer to Senior Divisions, the change-over should not prove too traumatic an experience. This, however, has not always been the case, as some Cadets have been reluctant to

advance and leave their Section. Similar to the strangeness of leaving Primary School to advance to Secondary School and later to Tertiary level, they could be apprehensive about leaving the familiar environment of a Cadet Division to become members of an Adult Division.

In some instances, members of the Adult Divisions have been guilty of making Cadets feel unwelcome and have not included them in Divisional activities to the extent they should. This attitude is a very poor reflection on the Brigade and defeats the purpose of its organisational structure. The fault is not necessarily entirely with individuals. Over a fairly long period of time, some senior Cadet Officers, adopting a mental attitude applicable to that of a private army, have fostered the impression that the Cadet Section made its own rules and regulations and was its own authority, rather than being answerable to the District Commissioner and

part of the Brigade as a whole. An impression of superiority is so easily emulated and this, in itself, would have an adverse effect on the thinking of others.

This situation indicates that, while there is considerable merit in the retention of "Cadet-minded" Cadet Leaders and Officers, the importance of giving all Officers experience in Adult Divisions before being appointed as Cadet Officers should not be overlooked.

Some responsibility must be accepted by both Cadet Officers and Adult Divisional Officers for the loss of Senior Cadets to the Brigade and for their failure to instruct members of their Divisions wisely, and encourage a better understanding all round. It is hoped, with the advent of more "Family" or "Combined Adult/Cadet Divisions" that this insular approach to the Brigade will cease and membership will increase as a result.

Cadets - General

Efforts to present a picture of the Cadet Section of the Brigade have not conveyed the excitement and enthusiasm which young people bring to an organisation, nor the satisfaction and pleasure experienced by those responsible for them when receptive minds respond quickly to training. The sharing of social activities, camps, and outings is an added bonus from Cadets who are always ready to create fun and enjoyment.

It is time, perhaps, to look at the other side of Cadet programmes - to offset training, study and duties with a random choice of social activities which have taken place, in which Cadets have had enormous fun; tasted behavioural maturity; been impressed with the solemnity and beauty of Dedication and other Services, and have shown initiative when occasions demanded it.

Over the years, many Divisions celebrated anniversaries and special occasions with a Social Evening to which parents, friends and important local and Brigade personages were invited. The Mayor and Mayoress of the District invariably attended, and a warm relationship was forged between local authorities and the Brigade, resulting in a better understanding of problems as each endeavoured to improve community service. Such public relations contact was invaluable to the Brigade generally.

When the Richmond Nursing Cadet Division arranged a Social Evening in 1969, employees of the State Electricity Commission, unfortunately, chose the same time to indulge in a strike, which consequently restricted lighting and public transport. The Nursing Cadets, however, proved

equal to the challenge and lighting from candles and kerosene lamps proved not only most effective, but added to the fun and atmosphere of the evening.

The fourth of June 1972 was a big day for the Sale Nursing Cadet Division as the Nursing Cadet Flag, together with Flags from the Adult Division and the Ambulance Cadet Division were dedicated at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale. The Cathedral was filled to capacity with Brigade members, parents and friends. Uniformed members, led by the Sale City Band, proudly marched to the Victorian Railways Institute Hall, following the very impressive dedication ceremony.

On 8 July 1972 the Sale Nursing Cadet Division held its annual Enrolment Ceremony. This, too, was an important occasion, as 23 new Cadets were presented with their first certificate and enrolled into the Division. It was a thrilling moment in the lives of the 23 Cadets as they started what could become a long association with the Brigade. The occasion was memorable, also, in that a large representative audience was present.

Local interest in St John activities was evident, as the Inspecting Team of Officers from Melbourne, District Superintendent Mr Max Phelan, District Officer Mr David McIntyre, District Officer Mr Herb Atkinson and District Officer Mrs Minabel Reid, representatives of the Senior Brigade Division, the Cadets Parents' Association and other invited guests were given a Civic Reception by the Mayor of Sale, Cr Bowman, at the Council Chambers, prior to the Enrolment Ceremony. The cordial relationship which existed between local authorities and the Brigade augured well for the future of St John in the Sale District.

Public Parades have always been a source of great interest and fun and in April 1972, when Swan Hill held its Pioneer Week Parade along the main street of the township, the St John Ambulance Brigade was represented by a float depicting the transportation of casualties in earlier years.

Mr Byrnes, a member of the Ambulance Division, drove an old horse-drawn ambulance, while Private Peter Devereaux pushed a litter, complete with patient, demonstrating how casualties were conveyed to hospital in 1886. Several Cadets were involved with the float presentation, and several more carried blankets in which to catch donations. The scene evidently appealed to onlookers immensely, as 20 cent pieces literally showered down on to the Cadets who netted them expertly with the blankets. A happy end to a lovely day, with members of the public demonstrating in a practical way their regard for the work of the Brigade.

The local St John Ambulance Brigade Cadet Division organised a Debutante Ball at the Poowong hall on the 8 March 1963 and some 600 people were present. The organisation was meticulous and, in view of the thought and work involved in the preparation of such a delightful evening, a few details of the Ball will not go amiss.

The hall was decorated in pink: pink flowers and green foliage on the stage; pink flowers on the supper tables and troughs of pink dahlias in the foyer. At the back of the stage hung the St John Ambulance Banner. The setting was lovely.

The Debutantes (11 in all) were to be presented to the Commissioner, Colonel Douglas Donald, KStJ, ED, and Mrs Donald and, after the official guests were received and welcomed, four pretty little flower girls came up the hall and presented flowers to each lady in the official party. The National Anthem was then played, signifying the commencement of the really important part of the evening.

Outfitted as Heralds, four boys took up positions on each side of the stage and played the fanfare to herald the arrival of the Debutantes.

All eyes turned towards the door. Led by Mrs Alan Wrench as Matron of the Debs and the Miniature Debutante and her partner the Page, the Debutantes entered and slowly walked up the hall between the

ranks of a Guard of Honour formed by members of the Westernport and Springvale Divisions of the Brigade, to the music of "The Glow-Worm".

The Miniature Deb and her partner were presented to the official guests to whom they curtsied and bowed respectively, the Page giving a scroll, mounted on pink satin, to the Master of Ceremonies, Mr Vick. In turn, the Debutantes ascended the steps of the stage for introductions to Colonel and Mrs Donald, following which they joined their partners and took their positions on the dance floor in preparation for the first dance. It was a beautiful sight. The boys were immaculate, and the girls looked like Princesses from a fairy story in their white, full-length frocks, rhinestone tiaras and each carrying a pink rose and bud on a single stem.

In view of the popularity and success of such functions, the Cadet Camp Planning Committee responsible for arranging programmes of social and recreational activities for Cadets, decided to include a Debutante Ball as a regular annual feature of its calendar.

The Malvern Town Hall has proved an excellent venue for the Ball, which enjoys the support of the Mayor for that District.

Proceeds from the Ball are used to further camping and other educational and recreational activities in the Cadet Section of the Brigade, and the Planning Committee look forward to a continuance of the support for the Ball which has been so admirably demonstrated by Brigade members in the past.

The year 1964 ended with a flourish at South Melbourne, as the combined Ambulance Cadet and Nursing Cadet Divisions held a very colourful Christmas and Fancy Dress Party as a climax to the year's activities. Costumes worn by members showed the interest and care of parents, as great efforts were put into creating them. There was no

doubt that the Fancy Dress part of the evening would be a success.

The first Nursing Cadet Division was formed in South Melbourne in March 1947 and permission was sought, and granted, for the 21st anniversary celebration of the founding of the Nursing Cadet Section of the Brigade in Victoria, to be held in the South Melbourne Town Hall on 16 March 1968.

The function took the form of a Fancy Dress Party, with prizes for the best costumes and characterisation. Photographs of some of the costumes worn by Cadets show that the standard was exceptionally high and the judges' task was anything but easy. Approximately 450 attended the Party, which proved a fantastic success. The fun and social atmosphere was enjoyed by all.

As an indication of the appeal and permanency of Brigade activities, the Footscray Nursing Cadet Division celebrated its 30th anniversary on 19 October 1979. During those 30 years, the Division had seven Superintendents, four of whom were at this social gathering (including the present Superintendent Mrs Gladys Blackstock).

Both Ambulance and Nursing Cadets are enthusiastic in their efforts to obtain proficiency badges. In 1981, Linda Perkins, a Bendigo Nursing Cadet, became one of a select few to clock up 1,000 hours of service. It was believed then that Linda had also created a record in being the first country Victorian to pass the magic barrier. Cadets must be under 17 years of age to qualify and, as Linda's 17th birthday was only a matter of days away, she just managed to scrape in.

A "Record of Appreciation" from the Mayor of Bendigo co-signed by the Town Clerk, was received by Linda as an expression of the appreciation of the Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of the City of Bendigo for the community service she had rendered.



Ballarat Cadets, winners of all sections of the Competitions in 1960

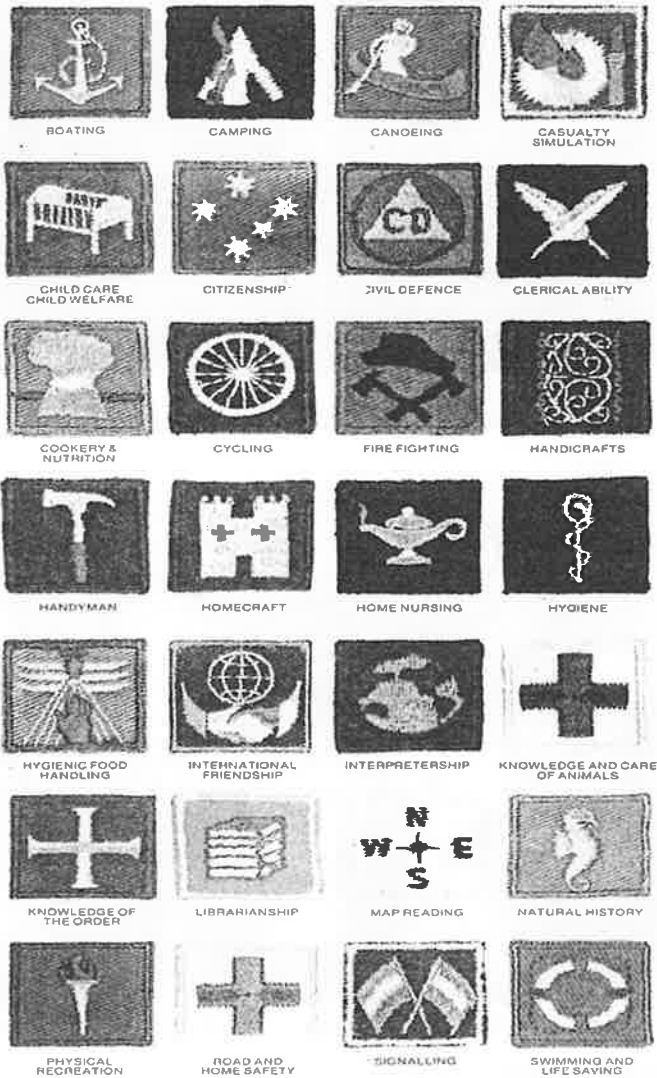


Lindy Boyd and Tim Toomey, our cadet representatives with others at the London Camp in 1977



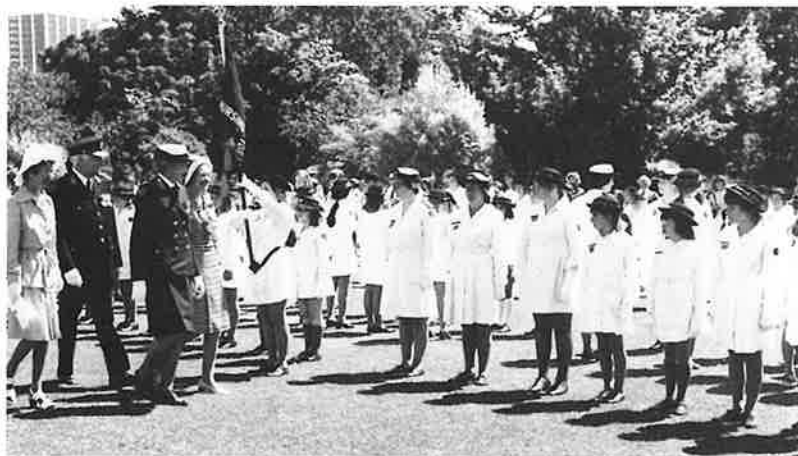
Beverley McMurtrie receives her Warrant from Dr Peter Bush

PROFICIENCY BADGES



GRAND PRIOR'S
BADGE

Cadet Proficiency badges and the Grand Prior's Badge.



Mrs Minabel Reid inspecting nursing cadets at Government House with Lady Brooks



The Inaugural meeting of 'Interlink' in 1976.



Presentation of the new vehicle to Diamond Valley Division.



The Fijian contingent at the 1972 Jubilee camp.



Chief Commissioner Douglas Donald inspects the WA contingent at the 1972 Jubilee Camp.



Ray Engblom demonstrates the resuscitator to Archbishop Frank Woods, 1967.

“The Teen-Age Knights”

Many acts of service go unseen and unrecorded. One day, on Dandenong Road, a man was knocked down by a car. A young girl, who was passing by, applied first aid. She did such a fine job, according to doctors, that she saved the man’s life.

When bushfires were raging in the Dandenongs some years ago, a group of young men equipped with a walkie-talkie and first aid materials were on the front line of the fires assisting fire fighters and applying first aid.

The young men, and the girl, were members of the St John Ambulance Brigade Cadet Corps.

There have been many occasions when, helping members of adult Divisions at duties, Senior

Ambulance or Nursing Cadets have been first on the scene to render aid, following the collapse of a member of the public.

These Cadets are well-trained. By their quick assessment of the situation and prompt treatment, they have maintained life until senior assistance was available.

Whether at a duty, competing in Competitions, or taking part in an Exercise, Cadets have proved time and again that young people are as well equipped with knowledge as adults and able to cope with emergencies, perhaps, in some instances, reacting more speedily to emergency situations.

Inter-Link

Brigade membership was reasonably satisfactory until approximately the mid-1970s, when numbers reduced alarmingly and recruiting virtually came to a standstill. This situation was not solely confined to the Brigade. Other organisations, Scouts, Guides, welfare and church groups - in fact, most of the active social sections of the community - reported the same serious downturn in numbers.

Efforts to find a solution to this problem made it necessary to firstly isolate the cause. To do this, many factors were considered. Some of these were-

1. The different life style of young people.

2. The drifting away from family life with its restrictions and protection.

3. The post-war permissive society which developed when the children were denied nothing by their parents.

4. Not having to contribute any effort to gain an item destroyed the sense of achievement and subsequent appreciation of the goal.

5. Changing values. The “what’s in it for me” attitude being applied to most situations to the detriment of “what can I do to help?”

6. Maturing prematurely in knowledge and experience of life without any depth or permanency of feelings.

7. The poor economic conditions prevailing, with unemployment rife.

8. Young people, lacking work opportunities, remaining at school longer and requiring more time for study.
9. The ease with which social service payments could be obtained destroyed ambition and dignity.
10. Exposure to the effects of drugs, alcohol, etc.

There could be dozens of theories put forward to account for the sudden lack of interest by young people in voluntary organisations, and probably most of them would be applicable.

One of the aims of the Cadet Section of the Brigade, as already pointed out, was on-going membership into the Adult Section. Many Cadets who reached this stage, however, were, for one reason or another, being completely lost to St John. These vital young people were urgently needed by the Brigade. After a great deal of consideration, it was decided to form a separate group, within the structure of the Organisation, which would cater for healthy activities and provide a variety of interests acceptable to young adults. This group was called "INTER-LINK".

Inter-Link was presented as:-

1. A way of life, encouraging members to carry out their own ideas and to aim for high ideals.
2. A team effort, co-operating with others, planning projects, taking responsibility and learning to be a leader.
3. A career opener, gaining knowledge and skills from others which would assist in personal decisions on careers to be followed.
4. An opportunity to make lasting friendships for both the good and the tough, demanding times were shared.
5. A social outlet for both sexes as group activities such as dances, hikes, barbecues, service projects and camps were arranged.

6. A challenge, as adventures would be experienced in sea, mountain, desert and snow.

7. Added knowledge and expertise in First Aid and Home Nursing gained from specialised training given by highly qualified members of the Brigade and outside organisations.

8. An educational asset, as places of interest were explored.

9. A political advantage as, the voting age now being 18 years, explanations would be given on the work of Local, State and Federal Governments and on the political parties involved.

10. An opportunity to read, listen and watch events of the day and to voice individual opinions.

11. An ability to help others by giving community service, individually or as a group.

12. Availability of advice and experience of leaders to get the best from the programme which members helped to plan and decide.

The aims and objectives of Inter-Link did not replace and were additional to Brigade Regulations (1975) 6 and C1, and were as follows:

1. To provide an interesting and well-balanced programme to bridge the "psychological gap" from Cadet membership to Adult membership.
2. To provide an opportunity for young people to participate in activities they would not necessarily experience in their normal Divisional programmes.
3. To provide an opportunity for members to continue their Proficiency Badge training at a higher level to achieve their Grand Prior's Award by their 21st birthday.
4. To enable young people to meet and interact socially with members of the opposite sex in a spirit of combined effort.

5. To help young people become more self-reliant and to assist them in their development of self-confidence.

6. To develop in the individual a sense of belonging and to assist in developing a meaningful relationship with other members.

7. To assist members in forming meaningful solutions to any social problems.

Membership:

1. Members of Inter-Link must be efficient members of an Ambulance, Nursing, Combined, Ambulance Cadet or Nursing Cadet Division of the Brigade.
2. Inter-Link activities are in addition to normal Divisional activities and the efficiency of members will be assessed on work done with their parent Division.
3. Members must be aged between 14-20 years.
4. Probationary members must participate in Inter-Link activities for a period of three

months before becoming eligible for full membership.

5. Before full membership is granted, Probationary members will be interviewed by the Officer-In-Charge, or by another Leader nominated by him/her.
6. Members who fail to participate in Inter-Link activities for three consecutive months without a satisfactory reason will have their membership reviewed.

Planning group:

The Inter-Link Planning Group would be comprised as under:

- (a) District Representative (Appointed)
- (b) Ambulance Representative (Appointed)
- (c) Nursing Representative (Appointed)
- (d) Ambulance Cadet Representative (Appointed)
- (e) Nursing Cadet Representative (Appointed)
- (f) Interlink Representative (To be elected)
- (g) Interlink Representative (To be elected)
- (h) Interlink Representative (To be elected)

The duties and responsibilities of the Planning Group were clearly set out. It was stated that Section representatives would be appointed by the Commissioner after consultation with Section Heads (ie District Superintendents (Ambulance and Nursing) Officer-in-Charge (Ambulance Cadets

and Nursing Cadets), and that the positions of the three Inter-Link representatives would be filled by an annual election conducted by the Officer-in-Charge of the Group.

It was agreed that a trial period of twelve months should be allowed for Inter-Link to establish itself. Having proved to be a successful venture, the Official Opening of the Inter-Link Group in Victoria District took place on 25 April 1976. The Planning Group Leaders at that stage were:

- (a) District Representative Mrs Joan Betson (now Patterson)
- (b) Ambulance Representative Mr Ian Bateman
- (c) Nursing Representative -

(d) Ambulance Cadet Representative Mr Angus McDonell (having replaced Mr Alan Fry)

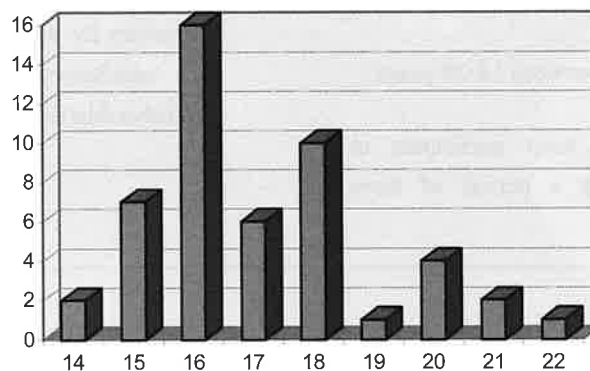
(e) Nursing Cadet Representative Miss Lesley Self

As Officer-in-Charge of Inter-Link, Mrs Joan Betson (now Mrs Patterson) led the group. Sister Jan Whatmough succeeded Mrs Betson and, in turn, handed over the responsibility to Mr Ian Bateman.

Activities were well attended and included proficiency courses, film days, a weekend Camp at Port Albert, visits to the Royal Melbourne and Austin Hospitals, social outings to places of interest, barbecue lunches, 10-pin Bowling, and a Pool Party.

Statistics compiled in a 1978 report show that, of the 38 Brigade members who had become Inter-Link members by the end of 1977, 34 returned in 1978. (Follow-up on the other four revealed that two had left the Brigade as a result of school studies; one could not attend regularly because of school commitments, and the other was in his final year of nursing and was unable to attend meetings - he hoped to return in 1979). The total membership at the beginning of 1978 was 49, excluding the four appointed members. Twenty-six Divisions of the Brigade were represented, as also were the six Corps. It is of interest to note the age groups of the 49 members:

Interlink Membership by Age Group



(At this stage, the age for membership appears to have been extended to 25 years).

The 1979 programme of Inter-Link activities maintained the high standards of quality and variety set in previous years. Something must have occurred somewhere along the line, however, which dampened interest and enthusiasm, for the Inter-Link Group faded out, but the reasons for it doing so are difficult to find.

It is obvious, however, that young people who are approaching adulthood are in great need of guidance and direction. The Government has

increased its social welfare department, and its community workers and counsellors will confirm that many youthful members of our modern society have lost direction, and are crying out for help. The loss of a service such as that provided by Inter-Link not only deprived the Brigade of membership, but also took away from young people a healthy social and education facility.

The basic structure of the Inter-Link Group was sound. It seems a pity, therefore, that a project such as this should be allowed to fade into obscurity for want of a leader to revitalise it.

Appeals

One of the ever-present concerns of a voluntary organisation involved in charitable work is finance and, from its inception, the Order of St John in Victoria has had to exert great care in the handling of its assets.

On three occasions, however, over a period of time spanning the years 1943 to 1977, decisions were made to approach the public for financial support for projects, namely:

Appeal No. 1

When the building of the Heidelberg Military Hospital was completed, the plan provided accommodation for up to 2000 patients. In an article published in the "Argus" newspaper on the 13 November 1943, 1500 patients were already installed in the hospital, as well as a staff of 1200 men and women.

This modern military hospital was part of the conception of Major-General R.M. Downes, and Colonel J.A.H. Sherwin was appointed Commanding Officer of this unit. It is with pride we recall that both men were members of the Order of St John and that their respective years of service included appointment as Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade (Victoria District).

The hospital was officially opened by Senator Leckie in March 1941, and 20 patients occupied the pavilion sections built by the Department of the Interior. At that stage only four wards had been completed and six more were in the process of being built. By November 1943 the project was finished. Patients looked out from wards upon expanses of lawns dotted with flowering shrubs, and unmade roads had been replaced by a network of neatly constructed thoroughfares.

As its special war effort, the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade raised, erected, and equipped, at a cost of £6000, a hall which was the centre for the amenities and education work of the hospital community of approximately 3000 people. Prior to the opening of St John Hall, the Convalescent Mess was the building used for entertainment purposes. It was a very small building and quite unsuitable.

On 24 June 1942, the St John Hall was opened by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Winston Dugan, and was a great success. It accommodated 400-500 people and was used for church services, recitals, concerts, picture shows, and educational talks. It also became a reception centre when convoys of anything up to 350 wounded and sick service men and women arrived for admission to the hospital. Concerts, educational talks and plays were recorded in a small studio off the stage and relayed to patients in the wards who tuned in by means of earphones to "Channel 3".

As more space was urgently required to cover the activities and relieve the cramped conditions, the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade launched a special appeal,

approved by the Patriotic Funds Council, for £5000 to enlarge the hall to seat 800 people.

The "Argus" newspaper strongly supported the Appeal and gave it daily coverage, including acknowledgement of donations. A magnificent response was received, not only from St John Brigade and Voluntary Aid Detachment sources, but from Racing Clubs, Patriotic Organisations, and the public generally, so that within seventeen days, the Appeal was oversubscribed, £5128 being received. Donations continued to pour in and the final total recorded was £6681. The extra money was used to purchase additional equipment for the hall.

A contract was let to Mr E.A. Watts, Building Contractor, of Hoddle Street, Collingwood, who built the original St John Hall in 1939 and who constructed most of the hospital buildings. Plans were drawn by Messrs. Cowper, Murphy and Associates, Honorary Architects. Hoyts Theatres gave valuable assistance to the St John Ambulance Association so that, in carrying out the extensions, the best results would be obtained in the screening of pictures and in sound effects. The extensions would take about three months and it was anticipated that entertainment of the servicemen

would not be interrupted for more than a fortnight during that time.

The official opening ceremony of the St John Theatre at Heidelberg Military Hospital took place on the 21 July 1944 when the Governor, Sir Winston Dugan, formally handed the building over to Colonel D.J. Thomas, Commanding Officer of the Hospital.

This highly successful Appeal resulted in a beautifully equipped entertainment hall being available to bring pleasure to thousands of servicemen and women over many years. It is a twentieth century reminder and continuance of the service to others given by the Order since its inception over 900 years ago.

Enquiries in 1985 elicited the fact that the St John Theatre is still part of the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital complex and is still considered a lovely building. Over the past 30 to 40 years, however, the nature of the Hospital has changed and patients now only have an average stay of eight days, after which they return home. There is no need, therefore, for an Amenities Theatre and the building is being utilised as a storage facility in which to keep furniture and equipment from closed wards.

Appeal No. 2

A Public Appeal was opened on the 1 July 1958 for contributions to assist in establishing a fund of £20,000 in an effort to overcome the financial burden on members of the Brigade who not only donated their time but also had to supply their own uniforms and the First Aid materials used on public duties. Monies raised were to be devoted to the

provision and maintenance of equipment for members of the 106 Divisions of the Brigade in Victoria.

This Appeal was handled by the Brigade and, perhaps because of inexperience in such fields, was not a success.

Appeal No. 3:

This was a State-wide Appeal for funds for the St John Ambulance Brigade and Association to improve facilities and training, the target amount being a minimum of \$550,000.

So that success could be ensured, the St John Council appointed Mr John.P.Young as Honorary Appeal Organiser, with Mr W.J.Todd as Appeal Director, both bringing professional expertise in fund raising to assist the cause of St John.

The Appeal was to be conducted throughout Victoria from September to November 1977 and members of the Order were asked to give it as much support as possible.

Many proposals were put forward by Mr Young as he outlined methods to be pursued in the collection of funds and advised of an intensive publicity campaign to be adopted.

The Brigade was geared to full co-operation in plans for community collections of funds. Melbourne was divided into areas for which specific District and Staff Officers were made responsible, while Regional Officers were to co-ordinate and spearhead activities in country areas.

Despite the enthusiasm of many in St John, this Appeal was also a disappointment and a failure. Several factors contributed to this -

1. Possibly opinions from a wider range of St John representatives should have been

obtained before appointing an Appeal Organiser/Director.

2. The slogan choice "NOBODY ELSE IN THE CROWD GIVES A DAMN" was disastrous and aroused considerable disapproval.
3. The Brigade was not really consulted/considered by the Organiser, especially concerning the slogan.
4. Advertising literature was totally unsuitable in some instances, and was printed before referral for approval.
5. There was a decided lack of communication between all parties involved. It was virtually impossible to find out what was going on, or what progress - if any - was being made.
6. The Appeal lacked direction.
7. Although the Brigade was ready to swing into action, the Organiser did not utilise its services in any way.
8. St John was not "as one" in supporting this Appeal.
9. Overhead expenses were exceptionally heavy.

It is easy to be critical, especially with hindsight, but in this history it is necessary to learn from the past for the future.

Assets - Real Estate

Training Camp Site: Yarra Junction

While the idea of a Training Site had been thought about and discussed for a long time, it was the positive action of a group of enthusiastic Cadet Officers who presented facts to the Commissioner, and the driving force of District Officer Harry Pascoe which made this dream take shape and eventually come true.

Following negotiations by District Superintendent Mr Norman Billing with the Department of Crown

Lands and Survey, Melbourne during May 1963, St John Holdings was granted a 21 years lease of 16.5 acres of Crown Land, situated in Britannia Creek Road, Yarra Junction, for use as a site for Amusement and Recreation (Camp Site). At a meeting held on the 30th January, 1964, the Committee appointed to plan and develop the site was as follows:

Chairman	District Superintendent Mr N Billing
Executive Officer	District Officer (Cadets) Mr.E.A.Madeley
Committee Members	District Surgeon Dr W.B. Wishart District Officers E.R. McAlpine, R.L. Craigie and H.McL. Pascoe District Sergeant-Major Mr A.T. Macfarlane Divisional Superintendent Mrs M. Davenport Cadet Superintendents Mr E Brown, Mr E.A. Mason and Mrs L Foster Corps Officer Mr K Kain

From this Committee, the following Sub-Committees were formed:

Survey	Messrs. Madeley, Kain and Brown
Services	Messrs. Mason, Macfarlane and Pascoe
Welfare	Mesdames Davenport and Foster
Finance	Messrs. McAlpine and Billing
Publicity	Mr R.L. Craigie

Planning to that date covered -

Liaison with local and other authorities.

A detailed contour plan and model being prepared.

An actual survey of the site being organised with the co-operation of a Master and students of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

A model being made of the proposed toilet and ablution blocks.

Divisions requested to obtain services of tradesmen members to assist with site works.

It was decided that first priority would be given to the provision of toilet and ablution facilities on a permanent basis.

It was proposed that a tree planting scheme be inaugurated and that a security building be an early project.

In June 1964, a second list of volunteers included:-

- Mr H Kays of North Altona, a bricklayer
- Mr Jim Williams of Caulfield, a general handyman
- Mr C Appleton of Prahran, a general handyman
- Mr Ray Engblom of West Footscray, Contact for a group from Footscray Division, including a Tiler Plasterer
- Mr A Ralph of Altona, Levels etc.
- Mr Norm Bent of Nth Williamstown, Concreter

- Mr Frank Burrows from Springvale Division, Transport

Springvale Division would supply labour and transport refrigerator.

Mr J Wiseman voluntarily transported the 12ft x 7ft Tool Shed, and also materials and furnishings, as they became available.

Following erection of the Dining Hall, Messrs R Pearson and R Dymond installed the electricity. At a later date Mr A Portbury installed the electricity to the garage and recently built dormitory.

It is not possible to name all those who helped the Training Centre take shape but the Ladies' Auxiliary provided great support at all times and, as additional volunteers, the under-mentioned deserve recognition for their untiring efforts over a long period of the site development:-

Mr Alan Crerar who was co-opted as a Plumber. He attended to the plumbing, water reticulation and sewerage requirements etc.

Mr W Firth, the father of a Cadet, made several contributions to the project as under -

1. The concrete steps and ramps to buildings were erected, labour free.
2. In the clearing set aside for use as an Open Air Chapel, he erected an Ashlar Lectern, built of Castlemaine coloured stone with a white cross set into it. At the foot rests a block of stone from the old Priory Church at Clerkenwell, England. The

cost of the structure was donated by a grateful patient of one of the Brigade Surgeons.

3. The three flag poles on the parade ground were also erected on a Castlemaine stone base; again supplied labour free by Mr Firth.

A report by Mr E Madeley in the December 1965 issue of "White Cross" stated that steady progress was being made in developing the Camp Site and that it would be officially opened early in the New Year. "The Commissioner's Kitchen", the cost of which was generously donated by Colonel Douglas Donald, was almost completed at this stage, and the St John Ambulance Brigade Women's Auxiliary had made a further donation of £650 making in all a total of £900 towards the kitchen furnishings. A gas heater for hot water supply to the kitchen, plus several other valuable articles, were donated

through District Superintendent N.Billing and saved the Brigade hundreds of pounds.

The Upwey Division donated a large Sanax First Aid Kit and several containers, while Mrs Ida Freeman donated a very suitably engraved Visitors' Book and an electric wall clock. Donations of goods and equipment were steadily received from manufacturers and the support, financially and otherwise, from all sections of the Order of St John and from outside Organisations, meant a great saving financially and enabled work at the Training Centre to proceed with a minimum of delay and maximum efficiency.

As an indication of the generosity of the business community and the Brigade, a short list of items and donations received is listed below:-

Rodd's Silverware	120 Sets of Cutlery
Springvale Hospital	Hot Water Unit
	20 Cubic ft. Refrigerator
	2 Clothes Lines
Nursing Cadet Section	60 Sets Crockery
Nursing section	Clothes dryer
Cadet Section	Chrome urn
Peters Ice Cream	Freezer Cabinet
Metal Manufacturers Ltd	Chrome Steriliser
Constructors of BP Westernport Refinery	3 Steel Flagpoles, quantity of Caneite
Ladies' Auxiliary	£900
Cadet Section	£630
Nursing Divisions	£20
Commissioner's Kitchen	£1,200
Prahran Cadets	£20
Richmond Parents' Association	£20

Mr Madeley led and directed the hard work of volunteers. They were at the site every weekend, often during the week, and over a period of almost two years, converted this area of bush scrub.

On 22nd February 1966, The Right Honourable The Lord Wakehurst, KG, KCMG, GCStJ, the Lord

Prior of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, visited the Training and Recreational Centre at Yarra Junction and unveiled a bronze plaque commemorating his visit.

The Fourth Annual Cadet Camp from the 8th to the 11th April 1966 saw the training site used for the first time - 89 Cadets from 21 Divisions attended and the Administrative Staff numbered 27. Despite inclement weather which created a number of problems, this Camp was considered to be the most successful yet held by the Ambulance Cadet Section. A comprehensive report on all facets of the Camp was prepared by Mr E A Mason, District Officer (Cadets), and many helpful suggestions were included for consideration.

The Training Centre was officially opened on 5th March 1967 by Rear Admiral Royer Dick CB, CBE, DSC, KStJ, Commissioner-in-Chief of the Brigade, while The Most Reverend Dr Frank Woods, Chaplain of the Order, officiated at the Blessing of the Lectern in the Open Air Chapel. On that occasion, 364 adults signed the Visitors' Book.

On 30th December 1967, the First Australian Inter-District Cadet Competitions took place during a camp of 130 personnel.

The Management Committee of the Douglas Donald Training Camp made tremendous efforts to update and provide new facilities at the Camp and, with the assistance of the Christian Works Camps (a Division of the Australian Council of Churches), 1978 saw the provision of three new dormitory buildings, with the old dormitory being utilised as a recreation room. All the labour and technical expertise was provided by the Christian Works Camp Organisation without charge, and was a magnificent contribution to Brigade activities.

The facilities have been well-used over many years, not only for Cadet Training Camps, but by the Rescue Squad and Mobile Nursing Section for weekend Exercises, by members of the Rescue Squad during a search for a plane which came down somewhere in that area, and by outside Organisations who are encouraged to hire the Training Centre for their own purposes.

Headquarter's Building

When the building at 217 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne was sold by the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service, it was necessary for new premises to be found for the Order of St John in Victoria.

The building considered to be the most suitable was a two-storey brick structure which previously functioned as a warehouse and office, and was situated at 194-196 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

Funds for its purchase were provided by:-

- (a) The St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre, which disposed of its investments for the purpose.

- (b) The St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District, chiefly from moneys raised by the Women's Auxiliary and by donations received from various sources.

Conversion of the building to cater for its use as the Headquarters of the Order of St John in Victoria was carried out voluntarily by members of the Brigade who, for nearly two years, devoted every Saturday to the work of reconstruction and decoration. The Council recorded its deep appreciation of this effort, and also thanked members of the Nursing Divisions and Women's Auxiliary who also attended week after week to provide refreshments for the working party.

The following members of the Brigade were involved in the work :-

Mr A W Aldridge

Mr L B Halton

Mr L N Batchelor	Mr O Jones
Mr N Billing	Mr E R McAlpine
Col. A.Christie	Mr R Moy
Mr L.R.Craigie	Sir F.Kingsley Norris
Mr A.Crerar	Mr H.M.Pascoe
Mr R J Dymond	Mr W.R.Pearson
Mr T Evans	Mr D Rivett
Mr A.B.Findlay	Mr H.Sainsbury
Mr W.Furneaux	Mr P.R.Suriano
Mr W E Fyfe	Mr C S Thompson

Valuable assistance was also rendered by the following business firms and others by donations of equipment and materials:-

D & H Bunny & Co

Myer Emporium

Braemar Pty Ltd

Metters Pty Ltd

LJ Morgan Pty Ltd

Mr RJ Moy and Mr Stanley White Jnr

Imperial Chemical Industries

Women's Auxiliary, St John Ambulance Brigade

Mr & Mrs A Crerar

Mrs H Boyd

Miss L Cairns Lloyd

The Official Opening of the Headquarters of the Order of St John in Victoria, 194 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, took place on the 16th November 1958, and the Deputy Prior His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, General Sir Dallas Brooks, KCB, KCMG, KCVO, DSO, KStJ, officiated.

In recognition of his untiring efforts in establishing this Headquarters, Colonel A Christie, District Superintendent (Admin) Victoria District, was honoured by having the building named "Christie House".

It was realised however, even then, that the building was too small and its facilities inadequate for the needs of all sections of the Order it had to accommodate but, because of the disastrous failure of an Appeal for funds, there was insufficient finance to purchase larger premises. Added to this, advice given by Architects was not sufficiently comprehensive and lacked understanding of the essential requirements for the use of the building. A great deal of pressure was also exerted by the Melbourne City Council in connection with standards to be met concerning fire escape stairways.

When occupied, the following were a few of the inadequacies which prevailed and caused much dissatisfaction:-

1. A large room upstairs was used as a lecture room and for Annual Meetings and, adjoining this, was a smaller room in which Administrative Meetings were held. If a film were being shown in the lecture room, the noise was so great it was impossible to have a discussion in the smaller room.
2. There were conflicting needs for the use of the limited accommodation - Association classes, Brigade Committee Meetings, Council Meetings etc.
3. The Brigade was allocated accommodation in the basement of the building which, for some considerable time, was still shared with a printing firm. The basement premises were most unsuitable. They were filthy, especially from the inks and printing presses, rat infested, ill-lit, and so damp that clothes, stretchers, blankets, and other equipment went mouldy very quickly. The overall accommodation was also extremely cramped and was certainly not the place for the office of the Commissioner.

Headquarters Building No. 2

As the work of the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade increased, the need for larger premises became imperative and steps were again taken to find a more suitable building. This time, a brick building consisting of three storeys, situated at 285 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, was chosen and, after renovations and alterations were completed, it was officially opened on 12th February 1979.

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Order, officiated at the Opening Ceremony and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion. Sir John Young, KCMG, KStJ, President of the St John Council of Victoria, welcomed His Royal Highness. Among those present was the Chief Commissioner, Colonel Douglas Donald, who had recently been ill.

This building provided office and staff accommodation for the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade, together with a Council Meeting Room and rooms to be utilised for teaching or general meeting purposes. It was well lit, carpeted throughout, and fitted with air conditioning.

After the previous fairly austere conditions, 285 LaTrobe Street was a delightful surprise and, other than lacking a lift service, was generally considered to be a good buy.

The building is still functioning as the Victorian Headquarters of the Order of St John but, in view of the diversity of demands on the Association and Brigade, the inclusion of professional staff to increase overall expertise, expansion of activities and other factors, space in this building is becoming less and less and it, too, may soon prove inadequate.

The accommodation problem eased somewhat during 1986 when space was leased in a building situated at 418 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne where a City Training Centre was established for use by the St John Ambulance Association. The Centre was officially opened in August 1986 by Mr F.R.G. Strickland, Chairman of Council, and Mr S.I. Miller, Commissioner of the Victoria Police who is also a member of the St John Council in Victoria.

The three fully equipped, modern training rooms, with offices for the Training Manager and his staff, plus a store room, proved a popular venue and a great success. 65 courses involving 1700 students were conducted there between August and 31st December 1986.

The City Training Centre proved that -

- class membership and public interest were not adversely affected by a location still further removed from the city centre
- the St John Ambulance Association operated more efficiently when not deprived of space
- a high standard of class instruction was able to be maintained because training equipment was supplied and on the premises, eg projectors, overhead screens, manikins, blackboards, splints, bandages etc.
- a pleasant, bright, clean atmosphere was conducive to better teaching and easier learning
- a supply of text books were available for sale
- a greater number of classes could be organised

After a period of some three years, the establishment of a St John Ambulance Association City Training Centre was accepted as a necessity

for the work of the Order in Victoria. Therefore, when the lease for 414-418 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne terminated, new premises were sought.

As plans for the renovation and updating of the St John Headquarters building situated at 285 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, were well in hand, it was not possible for classes to be conducted there.

It was agreed by members of the Order attending the Annual Meeting in 1988, held in the new City Training Centre situated at the corner of Elizabeth and a'Beckett Streets, Melbourne, that the choice

of alternative accommodation was excellent. There are five spacious teaching areas, each having facilities for modern equipment. Office and storage spaces have been provided and the personal comfort of staff and students has not been overlooked.

The modern, spacious, well-appointed City Training Centre, for which a ten-year lease has been negotiated, should improve presentation of the Association's work, emphasise its importance to the community and, overall, reflect a good public image for the Order of St John.

The St John Council

When the St John Ambulance Association was established in Victoria in 1883, all decisions relating to its operation were made by members of a Committee elected to office at a Public Meeting.

This committee was subsequently referred to as "Council" and, as set out on page 15, the office bearers for the first year were as follows:-

Chairman	The Honourable George Coppin
Deputy Chairman	Judge Quinlan
Treasurer	Mr E.L. Zox, MLA
Honorary Secretary	Dr R Warren
Members of Committee	Dr Neild, Mr Lloyd Tayler, Dr J Blair, Mr W Gillbee, Dr R. Robertson, Dr J Jamieson, Mr W.H. Archer, Mr E.G. Fitzgibbon, Professor H.M. Andrew and Major Sargood, MLC

All matters were dealt with by the Council, whether in connection with policy, finance, expansion, or items relevant to the day-to-day running of the organisation. The Council, fortunate in attracting the interest of men with a wide range of knowledge and experience, carried out its duties conscientiously and successfully. The affairs of the Order of St John in Victoria could not have been placed in more capable hands.

As time passed the population increased and the need for a trained body of men and women, proficient in First Aid, was recognised. Thus the St John Ambulance Brigade came into being to provide a service vital to the well - being of members of the public.

The Council of the St John Ambulance Association accepted responsibility for administering the affairs of the St John Ambulance Brigade as a matter of course and, for many years, efficiently coped with this extra work load.

As the Order of St John grew throughout Australia the Victorian Centre, in conjunction with other Centres, worked diligently for the establishment of a Commandery of the Order in the Commonwealth and, in 1941, advice was received that its petition had been successful. With the establishment of a Commandery, the status of the Order in Australia [with the exception of Western Australia whose Centre did not participate for geographical reasons] was now brought into line with the dominions of Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.

His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Sir Winston Dugan, accepted office as Deputy to His Excellency the Governor General and the following officers from the Victoria Centre were appointed to the Commandery Council :

Honorary Treasurer	Dr J Newman Morris
Representing the St John Ambulance Association	Major - General R.M. Downes Colonel J.A.H. Sherwin
Representing the St John Ambulance Brigade	Miss E.J. Wells Mr Frederick Raven

In 1947, the Commandery was elevated to a Priory with jurisdiction over the whole of Australia and its territories, with West Australia established as a Commandery within the Priory. With the establishment of the Priory and the co-option of the West Australian Centre, the whole of the Order of St John in Australia was now under a central control.

The Council administering the affairs of the Order in Victoria was aware of changes which became necessary as the work of the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade increased. In an effort to expand the work of the Association and to gain the interest of more people, the Constitution and By-Laws for the Centre were revised by Council.

It was during this year that Mrs Eccles MacKay joined the Council as a representative of the Australian Red Cross Society, Victorian Division. This must inevitably have strengthened the ties between two organisations with so many similar ideals and brought a closer understanding of problems which arose from time to time.

The Annual Report dated 30 September 1949 stated that harmonious relations between the Association and Brigade continued throughout the year. This was fostered by an important change in the system of administration during the previous year when Colonel Alexander Christie was appointed Secretary to the St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre, and also Secretary of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District. This meant there was now an office staff fully employed in the work of the Association and Brigade in Victoria, instead of part-time service of staff shared with the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service.

Co-operation between the Association and Brigade was excellent as efforts were made to further the interests of the Order in Victoria. This was facilitated by the inclusion of several officers of the Brigade on the Council of the Association. At that time the Council comprised:-

Chairman	J.A.H. Sherwin, VD, MD, FRACS, KStJ
Vice Chairman	E.Ormond Baker, Esq, JP,OstJ
Hon Treasurer	Miss E Appleton, C (S) St J
Secretary	Colonel A Christie, MBE, SBStJ
Members	Miss E Appleton, C (S) St J E Ormond Baker, Esq, JP, O St J W.J. Blackburn, Esq, SBStJ Major General S.R.Burston, CB, CBE, DSO, VD, KStJ, MBBS (Melb), FRCP (Lon), FRCP (Edin), FRACI. Colonel J.A.Chapman, OBE, SBStJ

	Mrs H.F.Creswick, DStJ
	Air Commodore E.A. Daley
	Mrs R Downes, OBE, O (S) StJ
	W.E.Fyfe, Esq, O St J
	Miss I.M.Green, SSStJ
	Air ViceMarshal T.E.V. Hurley, CB, CMG, VD, OStJ
	Miss L Jerram
	Sir John Newman Morris, CMG, MB, FRACS, KStJ
	Sir Alan Newton, MS, FRACS, O StJ
	Major - General F Kingsley Norris, CBE, DSO, ED
	W.R. Pearson, Esq, SBStJ
	Frederick Raven, Esq, JP, CStJ
	G.M.Rogers, Esq, SBStJ
	J.A.H.Sherwin, VD, MD, FRACS, KStJ.
	Miss E.J. Wells, DSt J.
Representative Aust Red Cross Society.	Mrs Eccles MacKay (Victorian Division)
Representatives Hon Instructors Assoc	Mrs K Hamilton Mr K Wilson

At a meeting of senior members of the Order and representatives of the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade held on the 17 August 1953, it was agreed to establish a "St John Council" for Victoria in the terms of Regulations for such Councils approved by the Priory in Australia in 1949.

The proposal was approved by the Council of the Victoria Centre and the Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District.

It was agreed that the new "St John Council" would commence functioning on the 1st January, 1954 and, as from that date, it would conduct the affairs of the Order in Victoria, other than the specific duties and functions of the Association and Brigade.

The Centre, therefore, would only concern itself with the teaching and administration of classes and,

at a Special Meeting held on the 21st December 1953, it was decided to set up a "Centre Committee" to perform these functions. This Committee replaced the Council of the Victoria Centre and also commenced functioning on the 1 January 1954. The Centre Committee was representative of the Medical and Nursing professions and Lay Instructors, and comprised -

4 Medical Practitioners

4 Lay Instructors (1 to be nominated by the Honorary Instructors' Association)

1 Trained Nurse

The representatives appointed to the Committee for the year 1954 were:-

Chairman (Ex-Officio)	Mr Geoffrey Newman Morris, CStJ ED
Hon Treasurer (Ex-Officio)	Mr E Ormond Baker, OBE, CStJ
Secretary	Colonel A Christie, MBE, CStJ
Representatives	Air Vice-Marshal E.A. Daley - CBE, OstJ, QHP Dr V.C. Dyring, SBStJ Dr A.W. Burton Mrs P.Marshall, SSStJ Mr F Raven, CStJ, JP Mr G.M. Rogers, OstJ Miss L.E. Peverill, SSStJ Mrs I.Freeman, SSStJ

Mr Geoffrey Newman Morris and Mr E Ormond Baker were the St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre, Executive Committee's representatives on the Priory Council. 1954 was significant in that, for the first time, a Report of the St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria was incorporated with that of the St John Council. To mark the occasion, the Commissioner, Brigadier WWS Johnston, briefly reviewed the development of this Foundation of the Order in the State, enumerating the growth of the Ambulance, Nursing, Ambulance Cadet and Nursing Cadet Divisions of the Brigade since their inception in the years 1910, 1916, 1930 and 1948 respectively.

For many years St John Headquarters was located at 217 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, in a building owned and occupied by the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service, but, in 1956, notice was given that the building was to be sold in the not too distant future. The prospect of having to find alternative accommodation was not relished and the problem of finance was one with which the Council would have to contend.

Often it takes a calamity to shake off lethargy built from the acceptance of conditions which have existed for years and to motivate change. Once the fact was realised that Headquarters had to be transferred, it was agreed that the time had come

for the Order of St John in Victoria to establish itself in a building of its own.

When presenting the 1956 Annual Report to members, the Chairman no doubt felt proud when, after such a short time, he was able to announce that a building had been acquired which would accommodate the administration of the Foundations in Victoria. This was the building situated at 194-196 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, previously referred to, which had been occupied by a firm of printers.

In April 1957 the office administration was able to be established there without loss of continuity, and the Priory Meetings in June were able to be held for the first time in a building belonging to the Order. This, in itself, made it an historic occasion.

Having jointly provided funds for the purchase of the building, the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade made a gift of the property to the Council and the Title to it was held by that body on behalf of the Order. Consequent on the gift to the Council, agreements were executed securing for the Association and Brigade Headquarters the right of occupancy to conduct their activities.

During 1958, in order to efficiently and legally administer properties acquired by St John in Victoria, the Council became a corporate body and

was registered as a Company limited by guarantee, under the designation of "St John Holdings".

As support was sought for the establishment of a Headquarters for the Order of St John at Canberra, the National Capital, Council, during 1964, agreed to provide funds to meet preliminary expenses in connection with this project and an amount of £250 was advanced for the purpose.

During a tour of the Australian States, The Lord Wakehurst, KG, KCMG, GCStJ, the Lord Prior of

Donations	\$7,243
The St John Council for Victoria (St John Holdings)	\$1,150
The St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre	\$20,400
The St John Ambulance Brigade Victoria District	\$7,000

The sum of \$35,000 which was guaranteed from Victoria was paid to Priory during 1967 and, in addition, direct donations amounting to \$500 were forwarded by individual donors.

Having the Priory Chancellor, Colonel (later Sir) George Stening, and the Receiver General, Commander (later Sir) Neville D Pixley, to stimulate and maintain interest in the building Appeal, it is not surprising that their resident State, New South Wales made the largest contribution.

Of the \$122,000 costs incurred for the building and its furnishings; the States contributed:

New South Wales	45%
Victoria	28%
The Priory	14%
South Australia	10%
Western Australia, The Australian Capital Territory and Queensland provided the remaining	3% .

The new Priory Headquarters building in Canberra was officially opened on the 29th May 1968 by His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Casey, Prior of the Order in Australia, in the presence of a large gathering of members of the Order, the Association, the Brigade and citizens of Canberra.

the Order, visited Canberra on 2nd February 1966 and in the presence of senior members of the Order, set the Foundation Stone of the proposed National Headquarters of the Australian Priory.

During 1967, a Special Appeal to assist with the cost of the National Headquarters Building at Canberra was made by the St John Council in Victoria. A fund was established and the following contributions were received:-

While the Victorian Headquarters building 194-196 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, had proved to be of great benefit to the Order over a number of years, as the work of the Association and Brigade increased, accommodation was stretched to the limit and proved inadequate for the demands made upon it. Dissatisfaction was rife as space became less and less, and the basement facilities allotted for the Commissioner's use left much to be desired.

During 1970, Council decided to make plans for the establishment of a new Headquarters building, and land for this purpose was purchased in Peel Street, North Melbourne. The Centre Committee of the St John Ambulance Association disposed of investments in bonds and debentures to the extent of \$40,034.30 and, with further funds which were added, a contribution of \$41,000 was made to St John Holdings to assist with the purchase of this land.

The Centre Committee of the St John Ambulance Association made a grant of \$4,000 in 1971 and a further \$4,000 in 1972 to St John Holdings, to enable Council to discharge its debt on the land. In all, an amount of \$49,000 had been made available for this purpose by the Centre Committee.

The purchase of land in Peel Street, North Melbourne for the establishment of a Headquarters building was not favourably received by members of the organisation, due mainly to its location and, as a result, it was sold in 1977. Council was able to report that a building in La Trobe Street, Melbourne had been purchased and, as all legal matters were completed, conversion of the building to provide a Headquarters for the Order in Victoria would commence.

It was in 1977 that Council reported the cash position of the organisation had deteriorated and that a net overdraft balance of \$49,534-05 existed at the end of December. The value of real estate at 194 Little Lonsdale Street, and 285 LaTrobe Street, however, more than offset this liability.

At this stage the Order was still operating from 194 Little Lonsdale Street, the conversion of the building at 285 LaTrobe Street having taken longer than expected. This was brought about mainly by the need to conform with requirements by the Melbourne Underground Loop Authority and compensation for increased costs was sought from the Authority. As previously mentioned, the Official Opening of the new Headquarters building took place on the 12th February 1979.

While most of the decisions reached by Council were accepted as being administratively sound, in some instances, actions implemented attracted a great deal of criticism. One such instance occurred when Victoria contributed large amounts to Priory for the new National Headquarters Building, at a time when its own financial position was shaky and very much in need of attention.

In 1974 it was agreed that Council should form an Executive, responsible to Council for the control and general management of the affairs of the Order in Victoria. The following agreement, negotiated by the Council, the St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre, and the St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District, was signed on the 28th October 1974 and steps were taken to

implement the proposals which became fully effective in 1975:-

1. That the St John Council appoint an Executive Committee which shall be responsible to the Council for the control and general management of the affairs of the Order in Victoria.

2. That the St John Council, The St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre, and the St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District, be parties to an agreement to this effect. (An agreement already exists concerning accommodation in the St John Headquarters Building).

3. That the Executive Committee to manage on behalf of the Council be those members of Council who for the time being hold the following positions -

Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Secretary of Council; Chairman, St John Association Victoria Centre; Commissioner, St John Ambulance Brigade Victoria District.

If any member of the Executive holds the position of both Chairman of the Association and Commissioner of the Brigade, he shall be entitled to exercise two votes on any matter before the Executive.

4. That all assets and funds be vested in St John Council, (St John Holdings) and be administered on behalf of the Executive by the Finance Committee of the Council with co-opted members.

5. That the Finance Committee be as follows- Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Council (Ex-officio); Hon Treasurer St John Council (Chairman and Convenor); Secretary St John Council; Representative St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre; Representative St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District; Office Manager (Appointed by Executive).

6. That the Executive be responsible for setting the Staff Establishment and employment conditions for a Manager and sufficient staff to serve the Order in Victoria, and the appointment of a Manager.

Signed this Twenty-Eighth day of October 1974.

DOUGLAS DONALD Chairman, St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre

J.P.BUSH Commissioner, St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District

in the presence of:

N.BILLING, MP, JP, Secretary, St John Council for Victoria.

A further revamping of the administrative structure of the Order in Victoria took place when the following motion was adopted by members attending the Annual Meeting on the 29th April 1976. This motion was ratified by Priory Chapter on the 26th June 1976 and later approved by Chapter-General Grand Priory:-

1. That the present St John Council for Victoria be dissolved as from St John Baptist Day 1976.

2. That a St John Council for Victoria be established in accordance with the St John Council (General) Regulations 1975.

3. That the St John Council for Victoria comprise-

(i) A President appointed by the Prior.

(ii) A Chairman appointed by the Prior after consultation with the President.

(iii) The chairman of the Victoria Centre of the St John Ambulance Association ex officio.

(iv) Two members of the St John Ambulance Association appointed by the Chairman of the Council after consultation with the Chairman of the Victoria Centre.

(v) The Commissioner of the Victoria District of the St John Ambulance Brigade ex officio.

(vi) Two members of the St John Ambulance Brigade appointed by the Chairman of the Council after consultation with the Commissioner of the Victoria District.

(vii) Seven additional members appointed by the Chairman in consultation with the President, of whom two shall be members of the Order of or above the grade of Commander.

4. All members of the Council shall take office on St John Baptist Day 1976, and with the exception of the President, shall retire on St John Baptist Day 1977, but shall be eligible for re-appointment. Thereafter each member of the Council with the exception of the President shall normally be appointed for the whole of a triennial period subject to retirement at the end of every such period, with eligibility for re-appointment.

The St John Council for Victoria, established following approval by Priory Chapter, has continued to co-ordinate the activities of the Order in Victoria. The St John Council for Victoria from the 1st January to the 24th June 1976 comprised:

Patron	His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Winneke KCMG, OBE, KStJ
Patroness	Lady Winneke, CStJ
President	Lieutenant- General, The Honourable Sir Edmund Herring, KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, KStJ, ED.
Vice Presidents	N Billing, Esq, KStJ, MP, JP Dr A.W. Burton, KStJ Air-Vice Marshal, E.A. Daley, CBE, KStJ Colonel Douglas Donald, CBE, KStJ, ED R.J. Dymond, Esq, KStJ Alfred S.H. Gifford, OBE, KStJ, DCM E.R. McAlpine, Esq, KStJ, JP Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, KStJ, ED Major-General Sir Kingsley Norris, CBE, CB, DSO, KStJ, ED
Chairman	Colonel Douglas Donald, CBE, KStJ, ED
Honorary Treasurer	A.B.Davenport, Esq, SBStJ.

Honorary Secretary	N.Billing, Esq, KStJ, MP, JP. Dr Esme Anderson, SSSJ Group-Captain A.M. Beech, OStJ, QHS Dr J.P. Bush, KStJ R.L. Craigie, Esq, CStJ Mrs M Davenport, OStJ Mrs B Davis, OStJ Mrs I Freeman, DStJ Major R Green, CStJ, ED Mrs K Hamilton, DStJ Mrs G Hulls, CStJ J Hulls, Esq, OStJ Miss L Cairns Lloyd, CStJ, BEM Dr N Pratt Long, OStJ E.A. Mason, Esq, CStJ Dr J.A. Mawdsley, SBStJ M. McLachlan, Esq, OStJ Miss T Peverill, CStJ Mrs M Reid, CStJ L.G. Thorogood, Esq, OStJ W/Cdr A.H. Toyne, CBE, CStJ
Auditor:	R.A.Yeoman, Esq, OStJ, FASA, RCA

As from 25th June to the 31st December 1976, after restructuring, the St John Council for Victoria was as follows:

Patron:	His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Winneke, KCMG, OBE, KStJ
Patroness:	Lady Winneke, CStJ
President:	Sir John Young, KCMG
Chairman:	Colonel Douglas Donald, CBE, KStJ, ED
Honorary Secretary:	N Billing, Esq, KStJ, MP, JP
Members	Dr A.W. Burton KStJ Group - Captain A.M. Beech, OStJ, QHS Dr J.P. Bush, KStJ Major R Green, CStJ, ED E.A. Mason, Esq, CStJ Sir Benjamin Rank Dr J.A. Mawdsley, OstJ

Dr E.W. Brentnall, MBE, SBStJ.

Mrs M Davenport, OstJ

Neil Smith, Esq

John P Young, Esq

F.R.G. Strickland, Esq

Council has functioned extremely well over the years, maintaining the high standards of the original group of men elected in 1883 and showing great responsibility in the making of decisions to advance the work of St John in Victoria.

No one can doubt the enormity of some of the problems with which Council had to contend at various times and opportunity is taken to draw attention to, and commend, the work of the Honorary Treasurer, District Officer Mr Bruce Davenport. His wide range of knowledge and financial expertise was always made available when required and he, no doubt, was responsible on many occasions for guiding the Order out of financial chaos.

Changes in membership of the St John Council were necessary from time to time and the Order of St John in Victoria was indeed fortunate when in 1979 Mr SI Miller, Chief Commissioner of Police in this State, agreed to become a member of Council. Mr Miller's experience with matters associated with the law, coupled with his administrative abilities, were invaluable when important decisions were being made.

In 1980, a warm welcome was extended to Mr J.C.Trethowan, BCom., FASA, when he, too, became a member of Council. Mr Trethowan brought with him a great deal of administrative experience resulting from his appointments listed hereunder:

Chairman of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria since 1974.

Chairman of the Council of the Australian Administrative Staff College.

Member for the State of Victoria on the Snowy Mountains Council.

Member of the State Co-ordination Council (Victoria).

Member of the National Labour Consultative Council.

Vice-President of the Electricity Supply Association of Australia.

Chairman of the Australian National Committee of the World Energy Conference.

Member of both the Finance & Graduate Committees of the University of Melbourne

Member of the Victorian Brown Coal Council - and his intimate knowledge of matters relating to the administration of large organisations gave added strength to the St John Council for Victoria which, in 1986, comprised the following:-

President

Sir Benjamin Rank, CMG, CStJ

Chairman

Mr F.R.G. Strickland, OBE, CStJ

Deputy Chairman And Treasurer

Mr P.L. Wharton, OstJ

Secretary

Mr K.J. Shields, SBStJ

Members

Dr E.W. Brentnall, MBE, CStJ
Dr J.P. Bush, KStJ
Dr A.S. Davis, OStJ
Mr D.L. Fraser OStJ
Major R Green, KStJ, RFD, ED
Dr J.A. Mawdsley, CStJ
Mr S.I. Miller, CStJ, QPM
Colonel L Newell, OStJ, QPM, ED
Mr J.C. Trethowan, AM
Mr J.P. Young, OBE

Breaking tradition and appointing non-St John persons to Council in 1976 was a brave but necessary step to take if the Order in Victoria was to advance. Business methods and technology were rapidly changing and, to keep pace with them,

St John needed the expertise and guidance of persons who had been associated with activities beyond the realm of medicine. Time has proved the wisdom of Council's decision and its importance should be recognised and appreciated.



Sir Benjamin Rank, Chairman and (later) President of St John Council for Victoria.



Mrs Massie Davenport and Dr Mary Irvine



Mrs Ida Freeman DSJ



Mr Freeman Strickland, Chairman and (later) President of St John Council for Victoria.



Bandmaster Dunn and the Victorian St John Band c.1960



Search & Rescue Units on parade before the Portsea exercise in 1975.



Mrs Massie (Bobbie) Davenport, Officer-in-Charge of Ormond Mobile Nursing Unit.

Specialist Section

“Air-Borne First Aid Section”(Parachutists)

As the Brigade expanded and grew, so also did its awareness of areas requiring a special First Aid service. Major accidents occurring in remote areas, emergencies in areas with difficult and dangerous terrain, bushfires and other natural disasters, brought the realisation that the assistance needed so urgently required a different thought approach if the problem were to be solved.

In 1962, Mr Thomas Leo Confoy of the Coburg-Brunswick Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade, a qualified Air Despatcher and Parachutist, spent much time in investigating the possibility of forming an Air Rescue Service as part of St John activities in Victoria, and presented detailed reports and suggestions on his findings.

Contact was made with the Assisting Co-ordinator of the State Disaster Plan and, after considerable investigation and consideration, Mr N Billing, District Superintendent of the Brigade in Victoria advised the Superintendent of the Coburg-Brunswick Division that the Commissioner had approved the use as Air Despatchers and/or Parachutists of those members in the Division who were so trained. This group would be known as the “Air-Borne First Aid Section” of the Division.

Medallion standard was the minimum acceptable First Aid qualification and it was suggested that training of this group in other techniques might be advisable. It was also recommended that Mr Confoy be appointed NCO in charge of the Section but that all matters relating to the Section were to

be the responsibility of the Divisional Superintendent.

This Specialist Section was not in any way to jeopardise the functioning of the Division which primarily was that of rendering First Aid.

The Chief Commissioner was having a suitable badge designed for use throughout Australia.

The Chief Commissioner of Police was advised on 17th February 1964 of the formation of an “Air-Borne First Aid Section” comprising St John Ambulance Brigade personnel, of its availability 24 hours a day, the address and telephone numbers of Mr Confoy for contact purposes, and advising that Radio Station 3UZ would co-operate in any way possible, including the use of its aircraft if required.

In April 1965, Mr H.J. Roberts, Superintendent of the Coburg-Brunswick Division, advised the Commissioner of the Brigade that the cost of maintaining the Air-Borne First Aid Section was too great for one Division to provide and, because of a lack of financial support, the Section could not continue functioning.

The Chief Commissioner of Police was notified on 2nd July 1965 that the “Air-Borne First Aid Section” of the St John Ambulance Brigade was now disbanded, but that a number of its members were continuing to function as the “Victorian Air Rescue Service”- a Section not sponsored by the

Brigade, but available for service to any organisation requiring them.

The Victorian Air Rescue Service consisted of 14 members, 6 of them "paramedics" fully trained in First Aid and able to jump from a light aircraft to assist an injured person on the ground, 4 others were despatchers to drop food, medical and other supplies, and 4 others were pilots.

After one month of operating fire-spotting patrols over the Dandenongs, for which radios were borrowed from Civil Defence, the Service was advised the radios could no longer be made available. As patrols were useless without radios, and as financial assistance to purchase one was not forthcoming from Government sources, the Service was forced to suspend operations.

St John Ambulance Brigade Brass Band

For many years a wish was frequently voiced for the Brigade to have its own Band, not only as a support and influence on the marching ability of members, but also to complete the complement of a parade, provide independence, and to advertise the presence of the St John Ambulance Brigade to the public generally.

During 1958 this wish became a reality and Mr Robert Dunn was appointed Band Master of the St John Ambulance Brigade Band which was comprised largely of ex-students from Melbourne High and Grammar Schools.

Mr Dunn had a life-long involvement in music and few Band Masters could measure up to his record and standards. At the early age of nine years he played in Western Australia under the baton of his father, and at fourteen years of age became a professional cornetist, playing for silent pictures.

Those few words "playing for silent pictures" will most likely be read and passed over quickly, for many people will find it impossible to visualise what a "night at the pictures" was like in the days of silent movies. Radio was in its infancy and only being introduced to listeners in the form of crystal sets with headphones, or a little later, as valve sets which boasted a horn-like speaker to allow a number of people to listen to a broadcast programme. There was no such thing as television or video - in fact, any imaginative person who suggested that at some future date films would be

viewed in private homes would have been ridiculed. So the population relaxed at the pictures where programmes changed at least twice a week, and as each district usually boasted two or three theatres, a variety of films were available to tempt an audience.

Over noises made by the public, especially the rustling of paper bags as sweets were shared and the voice of a person who read out the printed dialogue on the screen to a companion, was the music which accompanied the film. Depending on the affluence of the theatre proprietors, such music varied from a solo piano, two or three instruments, or a reasonably complete orchestra. These performers, especially those who worked as soloists, had to be excellent musicians, able to provide the right sort of music to fit the story on the screen.

This was a different world of music with the repertoire ranging from classical to modern works. The performer or performers were not seen by the public but their presence greatly enhanced the entertainment and would have been missed if it were not there. Musical ability had to be of the highest quality and there was no doubt whatsoever that Mr Dunn more than qualified in this regard.

During this period of his life, he was also a playing member of the Boulder City Band. He was very keen on band music and, while instructing, his personality and demeanour gained the

wholehearted concentration and goodwill of students.

In 1959 the St John Ambulance Brigade Band competed at Ballarat where it won the "B" Grade Own Choice Selection, the Quick-Step and the Hymn, and came second in the test section. Following this success, the Band was upgraded to "A" section.

At the Solo and Party Competitions held by the Victorian Band League at Hawthorn on the 8th and

Tenor Horn	D Trottman	1st
Sacred Solo	D Trottman	1st
Memory Test	D Trottman	1st
Solo Cornet	R Lowe	1st
Duet	Trottman & Spencer	2nd
Quartet	Two entries from the Band in this section	1st & 2nd.
Septet		1st
Champion of Champions	D Trottman	1st
	R Lowe	2nd

After giving service to the Brigade for over ten years, Mr Dunn was advised that a decision had been made for the Band to be discontinued as a section of the Brigade, and disbandment of the Division was requested by the 31st December 1969 when the stipend to the Band Master would become due.

It is regrettable that such a fine Brass Band was lost to the Brigade but, on the 15th February 1984 the St John Auxiliary Concert Band was formed and started its first practise sessions under the Directorship of Mr B Marsh, an experienced conductor who served fifteen years with the Royal Australian Air Force Band.

The Auxiliary Concert Band is a small, but active group, and practises every week at the Glenroy

9th June 1963, the St John Ambulance Band gave a splendid exhibition of band music. They obtained 6 Firsts, 3 Seconds, 1 Third, and were also successful in winning the Champion of Champions event. A truly excellent result, justifying the months of hard work put in by the players and Robert Dunn, the Band Master.

The sections of the competition in which members excelled are as follows:-

Technical School. It is not associated or affiliated with the Glenroy Technical School Cadet Combined Division, but the Divisional Superintendent has an interest in the Band, being responsible for its accounting and music library.

The "St John Auxiliary Concert Band" was so formed and must remain an Auxiliary for the following reasons:-

1. It allows any person to join the Band.
2. Any member of the St John Ambulance Brigade may join without losing membership in his/her Division. He/she simply takes part in the Band.

Maybe the time is not too far away when another "St John" Band will proudly lead members as they parade for special occasions.

Women's Auxiliary

Because the Brigade lacked a Headquarters building of its own and that the general public invariably linked St John and the Victorian Civil Ambulance as one organisation which charged for service, a group of concerned ladies, mostly the wives of District Officers, decided to do something about it

On 28th September 1951 Mrs W W Johnston, Mrs C V Dyring, Mrs A Christie, Mrs W E Fyfe, Mrs H Boyd, Mrs W Sterling and Miss Q Peverill met at the home of Mrs Johnston, wife of the then Commissioner. Their meeting discussed ways and

means of forming a Women's Auxiliary to work and raise funds for a Headquarters building of the St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria.

At this meeting it was decided to invite the wives of all Officers of the Brigade, or lady representatives, to a meeting at Kelvin Hall, 5th Floor, 55 Collins Place, Melbourne, on 29th October 1951. Twenty-three responded and after discussion, it was unanimously agreed that an Auxiliary be formed. The following Office Bearers were elected for 1952:-

President	Mrs W.W.S. Johnston
Vice Presidents	Mrs A.Christie
	Mrs C.V. Dyring
	Mrs W. Fyfe
Secretary -	Mrs W. Sterling
Correspondence Secretary	Mrs H.Boyd
Social Secretary -	Mrs I.Freeman
Treasurer	Miss Q.Peverill

(Mrs Sterling only remained in office for two meetings and, at Mrs Johnston's request, Mrs Boyd took over as Secretary).

The Commissioner had given approval for the formation of a Women's Auxiliary to the Brigade in Victoria and permission for it to raise funds in the name of the Brigade. (Such funds to assist in the purchase of a Headquarters building and to be used for other needs of the Brigade.) The ladies immediately set about their task in a most businesslike and efficient manner.

The group was extremely active in its fund raising efforts conducting raffles, jumble sales, fetes, street stalls and a Mannequin Parade, while Mrs Dymond was instrumental in arranging for the Theatre

Lovers' Club to present plays at venues obtained by the Auxiliary.

In addition to these mammoth and demanding functions, the Auxiliary provided refreshments at all Brigade Competitions. Also, during the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh in February 1954, members staffed the Baptist Church kitchen every evening to provide tea and biscuits for St John personnel on duty.

Remembering that the 1950s were before inflation governed the economy, the efforts of the Women's Auxiliary were remarkable. There were no half measures with their arrangements. The Lower Town Hall, Melbourne, was hired for many fetes;

radio and press publicity was obtained to support activities, and well-known public figures were invited to open major functions.

They had no funds at all with which to commence operating as an Auxiliary. The fact that £1000 was presented to Headquarters in February 1955 for the establishment of a building fund that subsequently provided the deposit for the purchase of 194 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, indicates the enthusiasm and drive which the ladies applied to their endeavours. Their dedication and loyalty to the Order of St John formed a strong base for their activities. In the eight years to 1959, the Women's Auxiliary raised an amount of £3200.

Over a period of many years, members continued to provide hospitality at Brigade Competitions. They assisted in the preparation of floats entered by St John in Moomba Parades and gave financial support for the Douglas Donald Training Centre and for other needs of the Brigade. Refreshments

were also provided by the Auxiliary for the team of men who gave so generously of their time and services on alternate Saturdays to effect alterations and improvements to the Headquarters building at 194 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

As the Auxiliary had achieved its original objective and a Headquarters building had been purchased and was fully paid for and, as financial relief was now provided by the Government following recognition of the service the Order of St John gave to the community, the Women's Auxiliary disbanded in 1971.

Although few members of the Brigade will remember the ladies of the Women's Auxiliary, the Order of St John in Victoria is deeply indebted to these women who applied themselves so assiduously to achieving their objective, ie, a Headquarters building for the Brigade. May their efforts never be forgotten.

Rescue Squads

One of the major post-war developments, which gave the Brigade a firmer place in the development of State Wide services and provided it with greater public impact, was the formation in 1962 of a Rescue Squad in Waverley. The idea came to District Officer Max Phelan during the bushfires of 1962 when he noticed the ambulance men were not clothed sufficiently well to enter a fire area. Nor did they have the experience to do so, and that the value of patrols was reduced because of an inability to map read.

An ex-policemen with 17 years service to his credit and a foundation member of the Police Search and Rescue Squad, Max Phelan was well qualified to establish and organise such a section of the Brigade in Victoria.

Members of the Brigade were very enthusiastic about this exciting expansion of their work but in

view of the demands of such service and the dangers involved, only physically fit and adequately qualified personnel could be accepted. Admission to the Squad was selective, therefore, and required a high standard of First Aid knowledge. It required also twelve months training in bushfire rescue and survival, map reading, vehicle navigation, cliff rescue, hard physical training, hygiene in the field, and Civil Defence.

White overalls over black skivvies were worn, with black webbing belts and gaiters, heavy duty black boots, and white fibre glass helmets. Rescue Squad flashes were worn on the sleeves below Brigade flashes. Rescue Squad Surgeons wore red fibreglass helmets so that they could be easily identified and quickly located. Control Staff wore blue helmets.

Members of Rescue Squads still remained members of their original Brigade Divisions and participated in divisional activities. All members worked voluntarily and, as personnel would be required quickly in times of disaster, every employer was approached asking that the member in his employ be released for duty when required. The employer response was both amazing and gratifying, as 90% agreed. All public servants in the Squads received full pay while away and many other employers made pay arrangements. Such goodwill and co-operation meant that calls for assistance could be covered at any hour of the day or night, and members could concentrate on their duties without worrying about their jobs.

As interest in the Brigade Rescue Section increased and publicity was given to its activities, its potential was quickly realised and the State Government made a vehicle equipped with rescue gear available. Gradually vehicles and equipment were obtained. In 1972, the Section had over 60 fully equipped Rescue vehicles, and 50 Squads were operating, comprising 600 men. At that time, as a result of help from the Civil Defence Authority, the St John Ambulance Brigade Rescue Section had more trained men and equipment than any other similar body in Australia, either professional or voluntary.

It was not long before the nursing members of the Brigade followed the example of the men by forming "Mobile Nursing" and, under the capable leadership of Mrs M Davenport, it soon grew in strength and efficiency. In 1972 Mobile Nursing comprised over 100 nursing members, with a number of State Registered Nurses and, as with the Rescue Squads, only physically fit, well-qualified personnel were admitted to this group. They were formed into teams and, complete with Mobile Nursing vans, were on call for any emergency situation.

Their prime function was to set up a mobile First Aid Post where resuscitation could be given. Emergency First Aid carried out by rescue squads at the disaster scene could be reviewed and, if

necessary, complemented and the condition of casualties reassessed before onward transfer to an emergency or base hospital. This also meant that male members of Rescue Squads could be released from static First Aid Post duties to assist at a disaster scene. Emergency hospitals were also set up and staffed.

The uniform adopted for wear by members of the Mobile Nursing Squads comprised a white thigh-length tunic with a high, stiffened neck collar of one inch, buttoned up at the back, and with a half belt from each side seam buttoning at the back. Mobile Nursing flashes were worn on each sleeve below the Brigade flashes. Black slacks, beret and shoes. Flesh-coloured nylon stockings. A white normal Brigade Nursing Cap was worn indoors. Parkas of black waterproof reversible nylon with hidden hood were worn by Other Ranks, blue parkas by Control Staff, and red parkas by SRNs. This proved a comfortable, practical outfit that gave maximum freedom of movement.

Brigade Surgeons, General Practitioners, Consultants and House Officers were also involved in the Rescue Squad and Mobile Nursing activities, both by assisting in training and being available for duty on "call-out" with the Squads. Training was intense and Squads often teamed up with each other or with other emergency organisations, ie, Fire Brigade, Victoria Police, Coast Guard, Army, Air Force etc, in their training sessions.

In addition to this training, two weekend camps were held annually involving large-scale exercises. The amount of thought put into these weekend training sessions and the involved negotiations associated with them make the exercises worthy of more than a passing reference. Instruction in the use of equipment such as the jaws of life and the practical application of rescue methods under difficult conditions, gave members of Rescue Squads and Mobile Nursing a sound basis for reliable service when called upon in times of emergency. The following exercises are representative of incidents chosen for training purposes:-

Waverley

During 1967, Brigade Rescue Squads joined a Civil Defence exercise at Waverley, its main purpose being to jolt members of the public into awareness that training before a calamity occurred was essential if they were to be able to cope with major disasters affecting whole communities.

The exercise, known as “Operation Blitz”, was to deal with the after-effects of a simulated high-explosive bomb attack. Casualties were skilfully made up with injuries that became even more realistic when appropriate acting intensified the drama.

Wrecked cars and smoke bombs were used as props to set scenes following the bombing of a train at Glen Waverley; a simulated direct hit on the factory of Nicholas Pty Ltd, a large pharmaceutical manufacturing company in Warrigal Road, Chadstone, and another on Anderson’s garage at Glen Waverley.

Three cars were blasted off the road making it necessary for the Brigade to use hydraulic equipment in order to remove the casualties.

At Syndal, an explosion occurred on a railway bridge and the injured were lowered from heights by means of a “flying fox”. A “flying fox” is constructed from a stretcher, ropes, and a snatch block [a strong metal hook which locks on itself - see illustrations].

By using a “flying fox”, rescue teams are able to safely transfer casualties from heights to ground level. This method of rescue is invaluable when difficult terrain has to be traversed, especially in mountainous areas or where ravines or rivers have

to be crossed. It is sometimes the only way to remove stretcher casualties from the upper floors of badly damaged buildings or from structures such as bridges, following serious accidents.

The advantages of rescue by means of a “flying fox” in such emergencies benefit both the patient and rescuers because -

1. The casualty does not experience the trauma of transportation on a stretcher over rough, dangerous ground.
2. The time factor involved in the rescue is considerably reduced thus enabling the casualty to be conveyed to hospital with minimal delay.
3. The physical demands on rescuers are lessened.

Finally, rounding off this extensive exercise, twenty four casualties required attention after an air-raid shelter suffered a direct bomb hit.

Disaster Headquarters, set up at Mount Waverley, kept track of operations and controlled activities. Casualties were transported to the Mount Waverley Youth Club Hall that was staffed by St John Mobile Nurses and members of the Glen Waverley Branch of the Red Cross Society.

Representatives from television’s “Four Corners” were present at the exercise and were greatly impressed by the efficiency of the well-organised Mobile Nurses as they so capably dealt with casualties.

The active, exhausting day was deemed a success, having achieved its objective of making the public aware of the need to undertake Civil Defence training.

Mount Martha

A simulated plane crash took place on the top of Mount Martha, a seaside resort on the Mornington Peninsula. This had been staged by 30 members of

Casualties Auxiliary under the leadership of Mr R.J.Dymond and caused Squad Leaders, after being alerted, to quickly assemble their members and the

equipment considered necessary. Foot parties were formed into a search line and moved towards the scene of the crash, while drivers of Brigade vehicles stood by until casualties were located and instructions transmitted back regarding tracks available for the vehicles.

The first casualty was quickly located and the search line concentrated on this area. The bodies of several passengers, killed in the crash, were found lodged in the branches of a tree.

A Forward Clearing Station was established and casualties were evacuated to it. Here they awaited transport back to the Camp Hospital where they would be given further treatment prior to the arrival of the Civil Ambulance Service for final transportation to hospital.

After Brigade vehicles had evacuated half the patients a simulated bushfire commenced as a result of the burning plane wreckage. (In theory, this was to prevent the return of the vehicles, necessitating the carrying of the casualties back to camp by the foot parties).

Co-ordination of this exercise was controlled by the use of radios and a portable loud hailer and because of the strenuous efforts of staff and the excellent control demonstrated by Squad Leaders, the exercise proved a tremendous success. The realistic make-up and acting abilities of members of Casualties Auxiliary set a high standard that was maintained throughout the exercise.

Portsea

Another activity was a training exercise held at the Portsea Army Camp, Nepean Highway, on the weekend of the 15th November 1968.

Those who are familiar with the geographical set-up of Port Phillip Bay will know that on the East side is a headland known as Point Nepean, with Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff on the West side. These points jealously guard a narrow entrance into the bay which leads to the Port of Melbourne.

Early settlers quickly grasped the potential of this natural feature that gave so much protection from invasion by sea, and fortified the areas. Tunnels were dug beneath the hills of Point Nepean to give access to pillboxes housing heavy artillery and a garrison fort was established at Queenscliff.

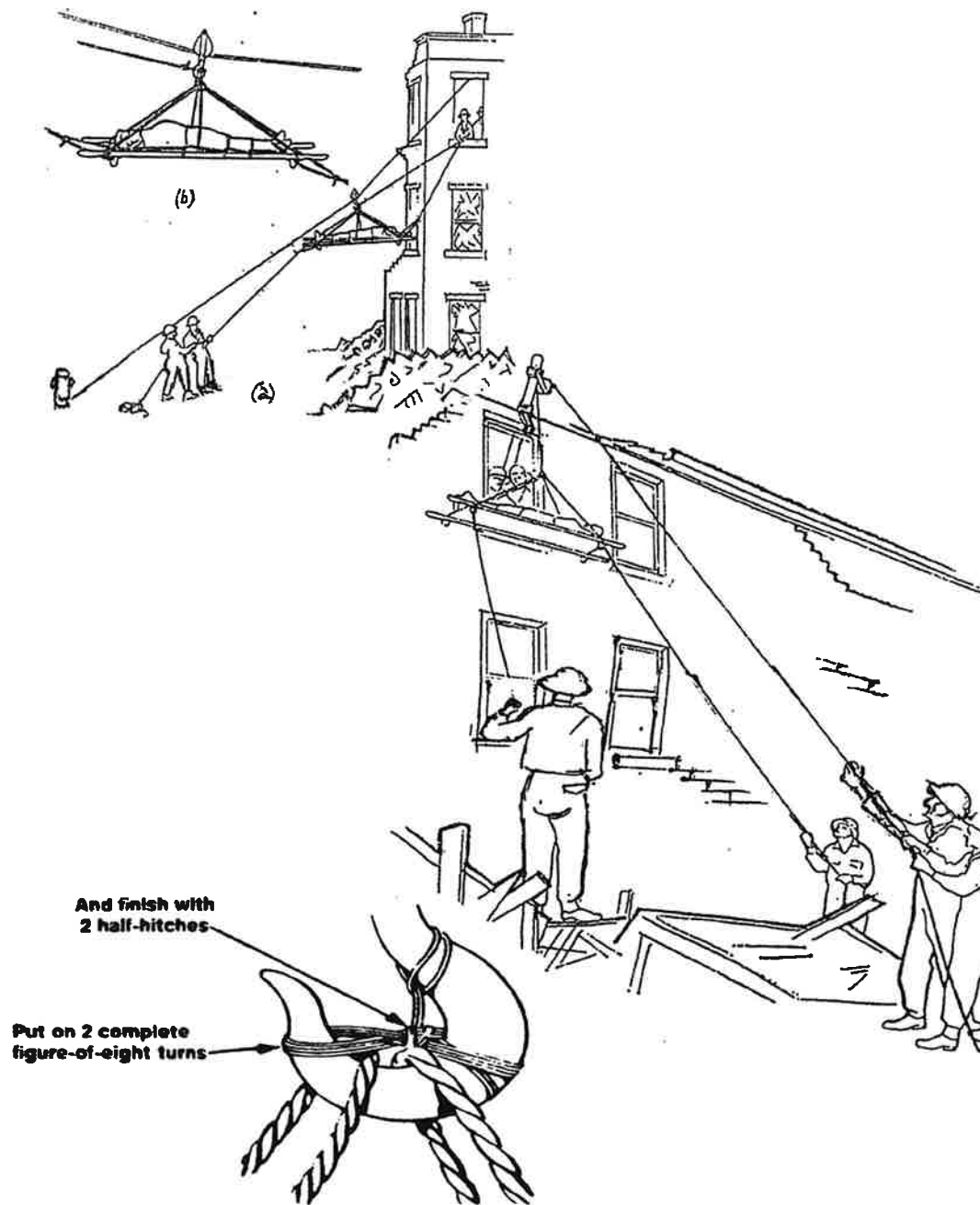
More than 450 people took part in the exercise, which was a simulated mine explosion in which a large number of miners were injured and trapped beneath ground level.

The venue, the Portsea Army Camp, where the hills are riddled with underground tunnels, was ideal for this exercise. It was not always easy to gain access

to the mine, as shafts were damaged and alternative entrances, unused for years, were overgrown by shrubs and undergrowth and hidden from view.

Casualties had to display a great deal of fortitude and self control as they maintained positions in dirty, musty surroundings, often in pitch darkness. Movement was dangerous, as most of the wooden supporting structure of the mine was rotten, and rescuers faced many difficulties as they manoeuvred stretchers and gear along narrow tunnels.

News coverage was provided by the Melbourne "Sun" newspaper and by television and the Minister for the Army, Mr Philip Lynch, was an interested spectator of the exercise.



Composite picture showing the setup and use of the flying fox for evacuation of injured patients by the Search & Rescue teams.

SEARCH & RESCUE SQUADS TRAINING - PORTSEA EXERCISE



Vehicles on the road to Point Nepean



Briefing the Control Officer



Transport over rough terrain



Simulated mine rescue

SEARCH & RESCUE TRAINING EXERCISES - GRAMPIANS 1974



Clambering through the 'Grand Canyon'



Climbing the 'Elephant's Hide'



Abseiling



Mobile Nursing members abseiling, too.



Search & Rescue members treating an injured patient



District Superintendent Max Phelan with the Waverley Search & Rescue team, 1966



Searchers discover a light plane crashed on Mount Slide in the Toolangi State Forest, 1964

Benalla

Many residents witnessed an efficient evacuation of over 170 casualties, including 50 seriously injured, from a mock disaster at the Salisbury Street Crossing at Benalla, a country town 195 miles from Melbourne.

Observers of this exercise included the Governor of Victoria, Sir Rohan Delacombe, who joined Civil Defence representatives; Inspector K Shuey, who deputised for Mr Braybrook, Assistant Commissioner of Police; Dr Lindell, Chairman of the Hospital and Charities Commission; Representatives of the Regional Ambulance Service including Superintendent Wilson of the Goulburn Valley Ambulance Service; the Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Dr AW Burton, and the Deputy Commissioner, Dr H Jackson. All were introduced and looked after by the Brigade District Surgeon, Dr Peter Bush.

The disaster involved a train consisting of goods vehicles and two passenger carriages, a bus and four motor vehicles. The Geelong Casualty Union was responsible for the make-up of casualties.

Ambulance personnel concerned with this exercise were at the Samaria Road Army Camp receiving lectures on radio communication, oxygen administration, breathing apparatus, and the use of ladders in rescue work. Soon after lunch messages came over the public address system regarding a fictitious aircraft believed to be lost in an area south of Benalla. This was to mislead personnel into expecting that an aircraft would be involved in the exercise.

Eventually, over the public address system, news was given of a rail smash at the Salisbury Street rail crossing and all personnel were instructed to stand by.

The first St John vehicle was at the scene within ten minutes, the situation was assessed and

information conveyed back to the radio base at Headquarters. As a result of this, Mobile and Rescue personnel were formed into five groups. Flying Squads were formed comprising a Doctor, a Nursing Sister, surplus personnel from the Mobile and Rescue Squads and other nursing personnel. The purpose of these Squads was to assess the injuries and tag the casualties so that following personnel could treat them, priority indicated.

The various coloured tags used indicated:-

Red	Dead
Yellow	Seriously injured
Pink	Less seriously injured
Green	Slightly injured or uninjured.

Present usage is a tag which can be folded to show one of the following:-

Black	Dead
Red	Top priority
Yellow	Second Priority
Green	Walking casualty

These cards were being tested for the Civil Ambulance Service and provided a wealth of information to assist in the treatment of casualties when they were hospitalised.

The five groups of Rescue and Mobile personnel were despatched from the camp area at approximately 15-minute intervals. This ensured a constant stream of ambulances and evacuation vehicles, which rapidly removed the casualties to a Forward Aid Post, set up at the Benalla High School. There, Doctors and nursing personnel administered oxygen, gave blood transfusions and other specialised treatments as the situation demanded.

A shuttle service by the ambulances evacuated treated casualties to the Camp Hospital where further nursing personnel took over.

The last casualty was removed from the wreck 1 3/4 hours from the first report of the disaster.

Controllers from Melbourne were greatly impressed with the Benalla St John Ambulance organisers, as also were the official party observers.

This exercise involved the following personnel –

139 Rescue and Mobile members

11 State Registered Nursing Sisters

47 Nursing Members

7 Doctors

16 Cadets

13 Control Staff

42 Brigade Headquarters and others not grouped.

St John members came from all over the State and used approximately 50 vehicles in the exercise.

Hall's Gap

An exercise conducted at Hall's Gap in the Grampians on the weekend of the 1ST November 1974 concerned a 707 jet airliner which had crash-landed in the Grand Canyon, and a bushfire burning in the area. The temperature was very high and burnt and injured passengers, together with some tourists, were known to be in the area.

District Officer Harry Woodall was in charge of the Camp and, as a camera crew from "Channel 2" arrived early, he gave them a conducted tour of the area.

On the Friday evening, as personnel participating in the exercise were travelling to Hall's Gap, District Officer David McIntyre who was at the Control Point was notified that a large factory was ablaze in Melbourne. If not controlled quickly, it could result in a disaster situation owing to tanks of explosive material being threatened. All personnel who had arrived early at the camp were put on immediate alert, and Squads on the way from Melbourne and other centres were halted until the all-clear was received. Eventually the all-clear was given and personnel continued to Hall's Gap.

The Casualties Auxiliary group, led by Mr McKinnell, produced such a fine job of making up casualties that the "Channel 2" crew became quite excited as they saw what was being done.

The mountainous terrain gave full scope to Rescue personnel as they used their ropes and tackle in the rescue operation.

While the main exercise was under way, a second diversion was created which called upon Mobile Nurses to work in the Grand Canyon without the support of the men. The men, meanwhile, found themselves looking after their own casualties and having to run the Field Hospital. It was all excellent training and personnel went about their tasks in a very dedicated manner.

The Camp was honoured during the day with a visit from the Brigade District Commissioner, Dr Peter Bush, the District Superintendent (Nursing) Mrs Davenport accompanied by Sister Batson, and Inspector Gore and Sergeant Kennedy from the Victoria Police Department stationed at Stawell.

As many exercises were carried out in areas fraught with danger, it was necessary to be alert at all times. District Superintendent (Nursing) Mrs Bobbie Davenport painfully, but very convincingly proved this point one night at Benalla, as she walked along a dark roadway with two or three Brigade Nursing Sisters. Bobbie was the only one of the group carrying a large torch and, realising they were about to walk into a large hole in the roadway, she pushed the others back. In doing so, however, she lost her own balance and landed face downward in gravel and mud at the bottom of the excavation. As a result she lost a front tooth, damaged three others, and small scars around her mouth serve as a reminder of this incident.

An integral part of all exercises, training and duties, is the very efficient Communications Division which has been developed and which is so

essential for the proper co-ordination of all participants to ensure the successful conclusion of any training activity or duty.

The exhaustive exercises and training sessions produced a highly efficient rescue service ready to

cope with any emergency and, over a period of years, the St John Rescue and Mobile Nursing sections were regularly called out for duty. The emergencies and disasters varied greatly but justified the intensive training that produced the skills required for such rescues.

Rescue Squads - Duties

From the time it was formed, and during its existence, the Rescue Section of the Brigade with its expertise, equipment and dedication, was involved in most of the major disasters which occurred in Victoria. Members in action were frequently in the news and, from the publicity received, were often referred to and became known as the "Knights in White".

Members of the Rescue Squads displayed many outstanding feats of courage and endurance over a long period of time. Tribute is also paid to the services rendered by backup teams who coordinated actions, established and manned First Aid Posts (often under very adverse conditions), supplied food and essential comforts, coped with long hours of duty and the trauma of accidents and disasters.

Bushfires

Bushfires have always been of great concern, particularly as the hot summer seasons approached. Each year, the Rescue Squads gave valuable service to the Fire Brigade, Country Fire Authorities, and Victoria Police, as they teamed together to save lives and property.

Some impressive actions stand out more than others but, without doubt, every Squad member involved in a major disaster deserves recognition for courage and devotion to duty.

One such action occurred in January 1965 in the Seymour area where a Rescue Squad was despatched to check on homes along Tarcoombe Road, believed to be endangered by a fire fanned by strong winds. Four weatherboard homes were involved. By radio relay, the Squad requested the urgent attendance of a water tanker. Two Squad members remained at Tarcoombe Road.

An additional complication was encountered, however, when it was learned that five children had been left in an old car about a mile along the road and were directly in the path of the fire. The two men in the rescue vehicle were horrified to find the car parked alongside a fully loaded petrol tanker, and that to get to the children they had to drive through the fire. This they did and then one man drove the car and children back through the fire, followed by the rescue vehicle.

With the children taken to a place of safety and water tankers arriving on the scene, no lives or properties were lost.

* * * * *

Although the 1939 bushfires were considered to be the worst ever experienced, the 1965 fires were even more severe in that hundreds of homes in the Gippsland area alone were destroyed.

While every other Organisation involved worked on a shift basis, the No.1 Rescue Squad of the Waverley-Camberwell Division, which was sent to the area, was on the job all day, every day. Members averaged about two hours sleep each night, and often forfeited this to find and bring back a casualty.

In a fortnight, the van, assigned to the Squad by the Civil Defence Department, had travelled about 2500 miles on road surfaces ranging from the Princes Highway to bulldozer tracks climbing 5500 feet into the highlands beyond Swift's Creek.

* * * * *

During the terror of the fires in the Dandenongs in 1968, two Mobile Units evacuated about 200 residents of Ferny Creek to Tremont. Those evacuated were mostly elderly people, some bedridden, some heart cases, and others who were just too old and slow to understand the situation.

At Tremont, the CFA were trying to get water from a few houses nearby, while other firemen and St

John personnel were holding the fire from the Tremont Store. All vehicles were parked in an open space in the middle of the fire and, when a strong gust of wind caught it, the fire jumped the highway and sped on its way to Upwey. Mobile 7 (Ringwood) had to back away or be caught in the flames.

While all this was happening, Mobile 2 (Waverley) received a call from firemen 100 yards down the road, to which they quickly responded. They rescued a fireman who had been overcome by smoke and heat from the flames and, as he was not breathing, commenced artificial respiration with the aid of an air viva. An ambulance was called but, as it was not immediately available the casualty was placed in the rear of Mobile 2, with two members applying artificial respiration and a Police escort to get them quickly to Ferntree Gully Hospital. On arrival the Doctors and Nurses applied oxygen, and the patient was successfully revived.

Floods

Rescue squads assisted at Seymour, when Whitehead's Creek flooded in February 1973, following six inches of rain that fell in the catchment area. In some isolated spots, ten to eleven inches of rain was recorded.

Floods bring different problems, as damage to homes is caused by thick mud and water. Many people were rescued by boats from houses and

trees, and rescuers continually risked their lives as they worked their way along the creek, now two hundred yards wide, with all bridges, including the railway bridge, under several feet of water.

The town gasometer was upturned and, as a gas leak was reported, the area had to be cleared. It took three to four days to return the gas supply back to normal.

Searches

On many occasions, Rescue Squads were called out to search for missing persons. In 1966, fourteen teenagers were lost on snow - covered Mount Donna Buang. They were inexperienced hikers, on a four thousand feet high mountain which was covered in thick bushland, with snow falling and

fog shrouding the area. Rescue work was very tedious and difficult.

Police and the Upper Yarra St John Rescue Squad eventually located all the teenagers. Ambulance men were kept busy attending to those found, some

of whom had to be brought out of the bush on stretchers.

On Sunday the 17th December 1967, Australians were horrified when radios spread the news that the Prime Minister, The Honourable Mr Harold Holt, was missing believed drowned at Cheviot Beach, Portsea. The nation was stunned by this calamity and anxiously awaited further announcements.

Meanwhile, D24 requested St John rescue assistance, and within 20 minutes from the time the telephone call was received, 80 men comprising 11 Squads, together with the Headquarters Radio Van, were on their way to Portsea. These men, all volunteers highly trained in rescue procedures and well disciplined, ceased their personal weekend activities and, without hesitation, responded instantly to the call for help.

The weather was very cold and a strong on-shore wind blew stinging sand into the faces of searchers. There were heavy intermittent showers of rain and

the seas were particularly strong. The sea whipped up a great deal of debris and kelp and visibility was poor, as heavy foam covered the water where waves crashed into the rocky shoreline. The search area was treacherous. It was riddled with trenches, and had numerous blowholes.

The Police were assisted by the reports of shark sightings and of items of clothing and footwear found, radioed back by Rescue Squads.

During the activities, two injured skin divers were treated and evacuated.

In addition to St John Rescue personnel and equipment, the R.A.A.F. supplied helicopters, T.A.A. and Ansett provided helicopters, the Army arranged foot parties, the Navy used crash boats, and the Victoria Police utilised its facilities, but the search proved negative.

Rescues

Rescues did not always involve people. On the 14th April 1969, the Broadmeadows St John Ambulance Rescue Squad was called out to an emergency at Fawkner, where a 600 lb.horse was trapped in a 6ft.deep trench in the grounds of the State School in McBryde Street.

Nearby residents heard the neighing of the horse and contacted members of the Rescue Squad who lived in Fawkner. A seven-man team dashed to the scene and with the aid of slings round its girth, after half an hour, the horse was brought to the surface. A Veterinary Surgeon was on hand to treat the animal. This rescue was considered by the Squad as its most unusual.

A call was received by John Crennan of the Footscray Rescue Squad for two or three small men to report to 39 Millswyn Street, South Yarra, to render emergency assistance. He confirmed this was the home of the District Commissioner,

Dr J.P.Bush, and that the emergency was indeed at this address.

A vehicle and squad of three (all men of small build) arrived in a very short time and were informed that a family pet (a much loved ginger and white cat), had managed to get itself through a very small opening and was now stuck somewhere under the house. It was deemed impossible for puss to get out without help, as hours of efforts by the family had failed to produce any result.

The Rescue Squad was undaunted by this challenge and, after removing some of the boards of the house to enable the men to get beneath it, they crawled and scrabbled their way in the dim light to every nook and cranny of the foundations of the building - without success.

Tired, dirty and probably disgruntled, the Rescue Squad emerged to find puss had somehow squeezed out of the original hole of entry, thus

proving the superiority of felines over mere humans.

Everyone was pleased with the satisfactory conclusion of the duty and proof was again provided that no duty is too small, or of too minor a nature, for St John.

* * * * *

During 1970 the Warrnambool Rescue Squad members, using ropes and pulleys, hauled two local fishermen up the face of the 100 metre cliff from their precarious perch near the bottom to safety. Neither was badly hurt, but they were treated at the

Warrnambool and District Hospital for cuts and bruises.

After their 14ft dinghy was swamped, the two fishermen scrambled on to the ledge where they were stranded for many hours. They were fortunate, in that their cries for help were heard by the crew of a fishing boat which was searching for them. The crew contacted a mobile radio control station set up by the St John Ambulance Brigade at Warrnambool breakwater and aid was organised.

The rescue took only five hours and was one of the most successful ever performed by the Rescue Squad.

Mine Rescue

For many people, Saturday the 9th August 1975 started out as a normal day, but soon turned into one of horror. It was on this day that five young boys, all friends, were enjoying the thrills of riding trail bikes in rough bush country between Axedale and Mount Sugarloaf, an area known for the many disused mine shafts it contained. Whether it was excitement that made one rider careless, or whether he didn't fully appreciate the terrain, is not known, but Michael Morgan, aged 16, of Mill Street, Bendigo, rode his bike up a bank on to the lip of a mine and "went straight in".

This was how Michael's four friends, who must have been deeply shocked, reported the accident to Senior Constable E Godkin of Axedale who went to the scene and immediately called for assistance from the Bendigo Ambulance and Fire Brigade. The St John Ambulance Brigade Marong Rescue Squad, under the leadership of Superintendent Wilfred Leversha, was also called to the scene.

An inspection of the mine shaft showed the bike wedged across it about 10 metres down, with Michael Morgan a further 5 metres beyond this point lying on a concrete block which had broken his fall. The concrete block had evidently been used to cap the mine at one stage but, with the

passing of time and the effects of weather on the mine shaft, it had fallen in.

Senior Constable Godkin requested the services of a mobile crane, hoping to be able to lift the youth out. On the way into the forest, however, the crane bogged. The rescue presented many problems, not the least of which were loose rocks at the top of the mine. If disturbed, falling rocks and shale could dislodge the bike on to Michael and both could then hurtle to the depths of the mine shaft. Only a rescuer of small build could hope to manoeuvre round the wedged bike, and Superintendent Leversha volunteered to go down.

Two ladders, lashed together, were placed across the shaft opening and Mr Leversha was lowered on a harness to the ledge. Extreme caution had to be exercised at all times, as one false move could bring the bike down on to them. After being in the mine from 11.45 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., the youth was brought out and the ordeal was over. He was taken to hospital and, although his injuries were diagnosed as a broken back and a broken left wrist, his condition was stated to be satisfactory.

The rescue represented a team effort by ambulance men from the Central Victorian Ambulance Service, policemen, firemen, the Brigade's Marong

Rescue Squad and others who were at the accident site. No one will deny that the rescue involved great danger and that the bravery shown that day deserved public recognition.

Members of the Marong St John Ambulance Brigade Division, received awards which were presented to them by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Winneke, at the Brigade's Annual Parade

and Inspection in the grounds of Government House. Superintendent Wilfred Leversha was awarded the Bronze Medallion of the Royal Humane Society of Australasia. While Douglas Malone, Bill Masson and Bill Punton, received Certificates of Meritorious Service. It was a proud moment for those young men as everyone at the Parade acknowledged their service.

Cave Rescue

Following an appeal from D24 requesting a rescue team for a youth trapped in a cave in Hobart, Tasmania, it was decided that a combined squad of six men, comprising four from the Victorian Speleological Association and two from St John, would fly to Hobart. The VSA men were required because of their intimate knowledge of cave structures and methods, and the St John Brigade men, Section Officer A Smith and Sergeant E Briner for their expert knowledge of rescue techniques. A special RAAF aircraft was standing by at Laverton to fly the men to Hobart where they were transported by helicopter to the scene of the accident.

On investigation, the cave was found to consist of very narrow winding tunnels descending to a depth of approximately 80 feet. Progress was very slow and hazardous as several rock falls had taken place. A "middle cave" was reached, which could hold several men and their equipment, and it was decided that this would make an excellent staging point.

The tunnel from the "middle cave" was very narrow and passed directly under a "rock fault" - this involved several hundred tons of precariously balanced rocks, supported by a wedge-shaped "key stone". The tunnel continued on to a "squeeze", a narrow opening about 10 inches by 18 inches through which only persons of small stature could pass.

The youth was found to be trapped in a vertical shaft, with his legs pinned by boulders.

Sgt. Briner was able to pass through the "squeeze" and checked the problems that had to be faced. Arrangements were made for the Porto-Power equipment to be brought down and a request to the police for the area around the cave mouth to be floodlit, and for a Neil Robertson stretcher to be provided was quickly and efficiently carried out. Extra hand lamps, transceivers and rescue harness were collected and taken down into the cave. A small transceiver was passed through the "squeeze" to Sgt. Briner, which made it possible to communicate with him.

The rescue was achieved through the close teamwork of everyone involved. In the final analysis, however, it was Sergeant Briner who had to make the decision as to how the rescue would be conducted.

Miners had warned that the cave was very dangerous and that there would be only a 100 to 1 chance of success if hydraulic power was used to move the rocks, as a further rock fall could be caused, and everyone in the tunnel could be killed.

Against this, the Doctor said that the only way of saving the youth was by moving the rocks. An operation on his legs was impossible under the prevailing conditions.

During the next four hours, preparations were made, Porto-Power was fitted up and passed through, and eventually a radio message from an exuberant Sgt. Briner advised "We've done it, he is free and he has no fractures". Then began the slow

and arduous task of bringing the youth to the surface, first by dragging him on a canvas, and later in a Neil Robertson stretcher. This operation took 1 hour 10 minutes.

The youth was admitted to hospital suffering from bad bruising and shock but had no broken bones. He expected to be there for about a week.

For their courage and determination in this difficult rescue, Sergeant Edward Briner and Corps Superintendent Alan Smith were awarded the Life Saving Medal of the Order of St John of Jerusalem - Briner's being gold, Smith's bronze.

This medal is only awarded to those who, by conspicuous acts of gallantry in saving life on land, have endangered their own lives. The distinction is a rare one and, since its institution nearly 100 years ago, only 11 gold, 145 silver and 326 bronze medals had been awarded up to 1968. The gold medal may fairly be considered the "Victoria Cross" of the Order of St John, and Sergeant Briner and Corps Superintendent Smith created history, as it is believed they are the first Australians thus honoured.

Disasters

Palais De Dance, St Kilda, Fire

It was just after 6.00 p.m. on the 27th December 1968 that a news flash came over the radio of a fire raging at the Palais De Dance in which two persons were believed to be trapped under a collapsed wall.

A Rescue Squad was sent to the scene and, as the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Deputy Chief Officer in charge suggested that further men might be required for first aid work, two more Squads were despatched - in all, a total of 20 members were in attendance.

A section of the roof collapsed on three firemen who were treated at the scene and transported to hospital by Victorian Civil Ambulance. One man had a suspected fractured tibia and fibula [leg bones], one suffered shock and the other lacerations. Squad members treated firemen overcome by smoke and others with eye irritation.

Frequent search patterns throughout the safe areas of the ruins were conducted and a thorough check made for any casualties.

"Southern Aurora" Rail Crash

On the 7th February 1969 the fast Sydney - Melbourne express train, the "Southern Aurora", collided head on with another train just outside Violet Town, about 170 kilometres north-east of Melbourne. Seventy-one Rescue Squad members were quickly on the scene. It was horrifying, as five carriages had jumped over the engine, a sixth was almost on to it, and a seventh had been badly damaged by fire.

The Squads worked tirelessly for hours to free and treat trapped and injured victims. In all, 9 people were killed, but many others sustained injuries. A local Doctor, a member of St John Ambulance Brigade, was one of the first at the scene. He worked frantically organising, extricating, sorting and treating casualties, and he stated there were many back injuries. It was amazing to find an 11-year old girl who was rescued from the Dining Car

THE SEARCH FOR HAROLD HOLT



Search & Rescue members in the search for Harold Holt at Cheviot Beach, Portsea in 1967.



Looking east at Point Nepean. The calm waters of Port Phillip Bay are on the left and the ocean waters of Bass Strait on the right, with Cheviot Bay in the middle distance.

SOUTHERN AURORA DERAILMENT AT VIOLET TOWN, 1969



only had a flap of scalp torn and a scratch across her “bottom”.

Perhaps the steel construction of the carriages, combined with the fact that they were sleeping cars with a comparatively small number of people to each coach, and that perhaps many of the occupants were lying flat, helped to save lives. Whatever the reason, it was a miracle the casualty list was so light.

One of the rescued passengers who suffered a broken bone in his neck as he jolted forward and hit his head reported that everyone was standing around in a dazed condition, talking in normal voices. There was no screaming or shouting, just an eerie, unreal crackling of flames and the jangling of the bell on the crossing - it didn't stop.

West Gate Bridge Collapse

Shortly before noon on the 15th October 1970, inhabitants of Melbourne heard a noise resembling a loud clap of thunder, or that of a pilot crashing the sound barrier with his jet aircraft. This was followed by an eerie silence, which lasted for about 30 seconds, and then it happened. Solid brick buildings in some areas shook violently and, at the State Electricity Commission's terminal station at Yarraville, the vibration was so severe that the safety lock on the door dropped on to the floor. It seemed as though an earthquake must have struck when, all of a sudden, it was realised that a section of the massive West Gate Bridge under construction had collapsed.

Within five minutes of the alarm being sounded, Rescue Squad members and St John First Aid men were at the scene of this appalling tragedy - a scene which resembled a battlefield.

Working in close liaison with Civil Ambulance and Police officials, oxy-acetylene torches were used to cut through the crumpled elevator shaft where four occupants were found already dead. Using the

Occupants of cars waiting at the crossing for the “Southern Aurora” to pass were the first volunteers on the scene. A crop-duster flying overhead landed and its crew came to help. Farmers with crowbars and ladders hastened from the town to assist in the rescue work, while local housewives served cups of tea. The Fire Brigade and bushfire fighters dealt with the fire as flames rose high in the air.

In recognition of services rendered at this and other disasters, Sergeant Stewart Granger, leader of the Footscray St John Rescue Squad, and Corporal Valerie Greene of Ormond Mobile Nursing, were each awarded the British Empire Medal.

same equipment and Porto-Power rescue apparatus, members of Rescue Squads worked their way under the mangled steel decking to lift the section where more bodies were recovered.

An improvised mortuary was set up at the side of the road and the bodies were covered with shrouds to avoid recognition by their badly shocked mates. A barrier was also erected to keep sightseers away from the death scene, and a First Aid Post was established by Mobile Nursing members for treatment of the injured.

St John Rescue personnel worked for ten hours and stopped only when exhaustion and lack of light made further rescue operations impossible. In all, 85 Officers and members of Rescue and Mobile Nursing responded to the call-out and their work deserves the highest praise.

For their outstanding service, Mrs Elaine Armstrong [Ormond Nursing Division] and Mr Alan Sparks [Ringwood - Nunawading Rescue Squad] were each awarded the British Empire Medal.

Festivals: Sunbury 1972

One of the greatest challenges to the Brigade's organisation, efficiency and stamina, was the first aid coverage for a Pop Festival held at Sunbury, a northern outer suburb of Melbourne, over the Australia Day holiday weekend in January 1972. Some 25,000 young people attended this Festival. The weather was extremely hot, the venue very dusty, and the music so amplified as to be deafening`.

A twelve - bed Field Hospital was set up with First Aid Posts at strategic points around the area, all facilities being staffed by 135 St John members, 8 Medical Officers and 9 State Registered Nurses. They worked flat out, around the clock, and treated 3,000 casualties with a wide range of complaints. Of these, 30 cases were admitted to hospital including:-

- 2 women in labour and about to give birth;
- 2 fractured skulls;
- 4 overdoses consisting of cocaine, hashish, LSD, and ingestion of sulphuric acid;
- 4 with damaged facial bones stove in after brawls;
- 1 man who had sulphuric acid thrown over him;
- 2 acute abdominal cases;

A variety of other complaints were admitted.

First Aid treatment was given to casualties suffering cut and injured feet, lacerations, effects of alcohol, heat stroke, and to many cases of sunburn, often in sensitive and delicate parts of the body, as a result of parading nude.

Requests for prescribed medications that had been forgotten by many in the excitement of attending the Festival were dealt with, as was the girl who arrived in an advanced stage of pregnancy [32

weeks]. She developed labour pains at 8.00 a.m. and thought she could ward off trouble by inserting a tampon but, by 8.00 pm., she was forced to summon help. It was "touch and go" but, after an all - out effort, she was successfully transported to hospital in time for her final contraction. Despite being far from the noisy festival, nursery staff at the hospital reported that, three days after birth the 31b. 10oz. baby girl still had her hands clamped over her ears!

Two dogs were also treated - one with a severe head injury after being run over by a vehicle, and the other, suffering from exhaustion.

In an effort to keep cool, a dangerous activity indulged in by many of the young people was that of diving from a 20 ft. tree into a muddy creek which contained submerged rocks. This caused great concern to authorities and a number of severe injuries resulted.

The success of this duty was achieved because every St John member produced a maximum effort, reflecting good leadership, supervision, and an excellent liaison with Headquarters Base. As they returned home on the Monday night, members were thoroughly exhausted, but felt extremely satisfied at having been part of a gigantic operation well done.

The young people attending the Festival paid homage to members of St John. by always standing back to allow Brigade personnel to jump queues to enable them to quickly return to their duties, and, on their departure from Sunbury, young people lined the roadway and cheered, giving the peace sign. This, in itself, was an indication of acceptance, gratitude, and praise for the services rendered at the Festival.

SUNBURY POP FESTIVAL 1972



Swimmers in Jackson's Creek at 1972 Sunbury Pop Festival



The St John Field Hospital at the 1972 Sunbury Pop Festival.



Treating a patient at the 1972 Sunbury Pop Festival



The X-Ray Unit in action at the Sunbury Pop Festival Field Hospital



Radio Communications Officer, Doug Iliffe at St John Base

Sunbury 1973

Over the Australia Day weekend in January 1973, St John again coped with the Pop Festival at Sunbury, where casualties were around the 4,000 mark over the four-day period. With the benefit of experience gained at the 1972 Festival, members were prepared for a hectic four-day tour of duty. The hospital tents complete with woven matting floors, the better range of equipment and improved lighting supplied by Headquarters, were an indication that thinking in this regard had also advanced.

An unexpected emergency occurred late Sunday evening, when a fire started close to the catering

tent. Prompt action by St John personnel avoided a serious situation developing, the fire being extinguished by a Brigade fire unit and some 40 Rescue members under the supervision of Mr Harry Woodall.

For the first time six Ambulance Cadets were included as part of the Sunbury team. They received training in many aspects of First Aid and hospital work and proved a great asset as they cheerfully tackled and reliably fulfilled all sorts of tasks allotted to them.

Sunbury 1974

In providing the first aid and medical coverage at previous Sunbury "Pop" Festivals, it was possible to more comprehensively evaluate this duty. Its requirements were better understood and it was realised that improvements were necessary to facilities utilised by St John members who voluntarily gave up their own long weekend holiday break to help out at Sunbury, and for casualties.

The enthusiasm of a group, which arrived on Friday 25th January to prepare the St John complex, was such that an effective unit was operational later that afternoon. The St John area included sections for Administration, Hospital and Patient Reception, Staff Meals, Transport and Security, with an orderly row of tents and caravans to accommodate the 250 Brigade members attending.

As anticipated from the large crowd present, St John help was constantly in demand. Over the four days of the Festival some 2500 casualties were treated, each patient receiving a high standard of care, approximately 600 being seen by Brigade Surgeons. Unfortunately, the weekend was marred by one fatality. This was a drowning incident

where the casualty failed to respond despite tremendous efforts made to resuscitate him.

Sleeping accommodation for St John personnel this year was a great improvement on that of 1973 when one 4-berth caravan was provided for the use of 9 girls. Sleeping in shifts solved that problem to some extent, but a sense of humour was essential when clothing and personal belongings became mixed and difficult to find. A special "Mess" area within the St John complex was established this year and was a great boon. Mrs Connie McLachlan and Mrs Enid Macfarlane efficiently controlled this section which was quickly and affectionately named "Connie's Cafeteria".

Throughout the four-day period of the Festival a wonderful comradeship existed between all Brigade personnel. On request, transport was cheerfully made available to take members to various site areas; good first aid knowledge was obvious from treatments given, and members showed kindness and concern not only for their patients but for their fellow workers. Above all, the St John organisation as a whole proved it could function efficiently under varying and often trying conditions.

Sunbury 1975

Brigade organisation improved with each year thereby increasing the efficiency of the first aid and medical coverage for which it was responsible. This year, in addition to the Field Hospital, five First Aid Posts were placed at strategic points, with one each side of the concert platform. These Posts were staffed by Ambulance and Nursing personnel, a State Registered Nurse (SRN) and, where possible, a Doctor or a medical student. Those unfortunate enough to be close to the platform must have been almost deafened by the noise of the amplified performance.

Usually the Australia Day holiday weekend weather at the end of January was hot, but 1975 proved the exception. The rain just poured down and what was invariably a dusty, dry Festival site became a muddy quagmire. St John was equal to the challenge and a tarpaulin slung between two vehicles created a First Aid Post close to the platform, while the vehicles were used as rest areas.

Equipment for the Field Hospital was increased to include two portable X-Ray units, which were under the control of Dr Luth and two technicians. This was the first time such advanced technology was made available for use at the Festival and

proved that St John was always ready to provide the best service possible.

From the promoters' point of view, the heavy rain marred the Festival as it was poorly attended, but the time was not wasted so far as St John was concerned. Some 215 Brigade members were on duty over the four-day period and while only 1553 casualties were treated, valuable experience was gained and specialist lectures were given to further the training of personnel.

At about this time, not only were the promoters of the Pop Festivals running into problems but, for various reasons, one of which has to be financial because of the high cost of maintaining equipment and vehicles, Rescue and Mobile Nursing were quietly being phased out.

Since then, representatives of various organisations have been brought together to formulate an Emergency Service to operate in accordance with the State Disaster Plan. From their deliberations, the present day State Emergency Service evolved, and all Services are now efficiently co-ordinated to give maximum assistance in times of major calamities in the State of Victoria.

Communications

While endeavouring to paint a picture of the activities of the Brigade in the community, it must be realised that, in common with a picture, only a portion of the subject matter can be included. Many avenues of service have been omitted, but they are nonetheless important.

It is an undeniable fact, however, that without reliable communication, the co-ordination of personnel and control of a situation is reduced, thereby lessening the value of the service the Brigade provides.

Realising the importance of having a good communications set-up, when the Rescue Squads were being formed, a Communications network was also developed. A method of training Squad members in the use of radio equipment was devised and, to ensure a standard of operations, District Officer Kevin Kain and Corps Officer Leslie Thorogood formed a Radio Section. Sergeant W.D.Illiffe of the Waverley Division was appointed Technical Officer and he assisted Control Staff of the Rescue Section to set up a Communications Section.

From a small beginning, the Brigade now has a Radio Communications vehicle at all major public functions and at all disasters where personnel are involved. Two-way radios are fitted to all mobile First Aid Units and members on patrol duty carry walkie-talkie sets with them.

The Communications Division is numerically only a small Division, but the members are highly trained and provide a specialist service that keeps the St John Ambulance Brigade an integral part of community service.

District Officer Mr Wilfred Douglas Illiffe, OStJ, the creator of the Communications Section, submitted the following article in support of communications:-

“I joined the Rescue Squad late in 1961 after seeing an advertisement in the local paper saying “Rescue Squad for Disasters in Waverley”. Shortly after that I managed to get Harry Woodall interested and my wife coached both of us until we were able to pass our First Aid exam. Little did she know what she was starting!

Harry went into the main part of the Rescue Squad and, in view of my knowledge of radio, I naturally went into Communications. We used to go for Walkie-Talkie picnics using my station-wagon and Max Phelan’s Austin A40, the purpose being to test the 27 megs., now called CB Radios, to see if they were suitable for use by our Rescue Squad and, if so, to then try and get Norm Billing, the District Superintendent at the time, interested in buying them for us. We didn’t know, at this point, that Max would be able to obtain some Civil Defence equipment at a later date.

These picnics usually took place in the evening or at weekends and, at them, we put up various antennas I manufactured. We would then see how far we could get on them. We even made up aerials using old detergent bottles as the loading core on the base and I worked my wife into winding wires round old plastic bottles. It was quite interesting. We got some rather unusual effects and, even by today’s standards, some rather astonishing results.

As a result of all this experimentation, we were able to set up a reasonable field base, initially of

course just on a table, the hand-held radios feeding into one of our antennas.

One of the most interesting exercises we originally held was in the Lockwood area. A few teams were sent out with handhelds and, as I had built up a direction finder and mounted it on an aerial pole, we were able to track the field parties as they went out and, again, as they returned. Halfway through the exercise, the direction finder went completely mad. It swung from side to side and we couldn't get any positive reading at all. There was an explanation to this extraordinary reaction, which we received later. That particular man was being chased by a bull! I think my track would be a little bit uneven too, given the same circumstances.

Up to this day, Clarrie Paterson managed to get some odd jobs done at work for me. He made up a trolley to hold the main battery for our unit, the antenna system and all the radios (we had eight sets by then) being hooked on to the side. The trolley, complete with equipment, could then be slid into the rear of my Station Wagon. I had it all lined up so that it was sitting on a table at the back of the wagon. All I had to do was to lower the tailboard, push the trolley into the back of the Station Wagon and we were off and away. We used this same unit for transmitting while we were mobile and again when we reached the particular duty in hand. This trolley had been made up because our first call to a bushfire was at Longwood and as Jacques Sapir, a Frenchman or ex-Frenchman who was in our Squad, was as radio mad as me, we made up a special pole for transmitting the CB radios. At Longwood we realised what we sadly lacked in the way of equipment, both from the technical and from the transport angles, and the trolley was our answer to these problems.

I will never forget that first run. We were all a little tense and, when we were a third or a quarter of the way along the course, to my dismay my exhaust pipe and silencer started to fall off the car and hit the road. I stopped to effect repairs and finally caught up with the "White Wonder" as it

was affectionately known then, further along the route leading to the bushfire. That was our 'breaking in' to bushfires and, following this experience, we came up with numerous ideas, for example, this trolley. As I knew I would not always be available to go out in a hurry because of commitments with my business and the necessity to find someone to replace me, we made the trolley so that it would fit the cars of several people. We also made designs of antennas so that people who were not quite so technically minded as ourselves would still be able to put it up. The inverted "V" was the first one off and it is still in use today. So, again, Clarrie obtained the required type of material and, on insulating board, we marked in heavy white lines which way the aerial had to go.

Barry Whittle was in my party by then and he had been a help to me many times. On this occasion he went to a bushfire near Rokewood. He pushed up the pole first of all, attached the wires according to the markings, and it worked very well. In doing so he failed to observe a number of technical laws, but managed to get out very well indeed.

Barry was an excellent navigator and would supply me with adequate information as we travelled. I cannot ever remember overshooting a turn-off even in the depth of night or in a strange city.

One thing I didn't mention about our pole. It was an ex-Army design and this snapped into place as you put it up, which was all very well providing you snapped the rings in properly as it went up, otherwise you found that your thumb, mostly, was nearly crushed by the whole thing cascading down again. You only did it once! You never made that mistake again!

I was able to join this party the following day - I had got a relief by then - and, at Rokewood we decided we desperately needed floodlights. Well I had some floodlights at my home in Glen Waverley, but we didn't know how to get them down. So we rang Headquarters and suggested that we'd like someone to pick these up when the next Squad came up to relieve some of the others, and

this is what eventuated. Trevor Macfarlane rang my wife at 3 o'clock in the morning and said, "This is Trevor Macfarlane here. I am working and (with a laugh) I don't see why you shouldn't be woken up too. Your husband has requested that your floodlights come up to the fire scene and we have detailed one of the Squad to pick it up from you about half past five in the morning. I thought I had better ring first and warn you, Now I know Trevor Macfarlane a lot better and we can chat over all these incidents, omitting the serious aspects but remembering the funny sides. If I told all the funny things that happened, apart from the serious ones, I wouldn't need a chapter, I'd need a book.

The various people who assisted Communications are too numerous to mention individually. However, I especially acknowledge the efforts of Ray Engblom of Footscray and Brian Priest of Sunshine who devoted part of their holidays to build up the radio room, which stands in almost the same form now as it did when they built it many, many years ago. My grateful thanks to those two for, without their help, we could not have achieved half of what we have been able to do.

It is interesting to note that, with the exception of a few like George Wilson, some of the operators these days complain about the distance they have to travel to come to base to work. The Sunshine boys and the Footscray boys used to come here every Friday night for lectures. They used to spend these evenings fitting out the vehicle and doing all sorts of things like building that base, and had lectures as well, and they never complained.

A great spirit of comradeship existed in those early days and help came from the most unexpected sources, many of which cannot be named for various reasons.

Geoff Lacey came in quite early in the piece - not long after the Rokewood fires. We were able to allocate a HF Radio to the Ringwood/Nunawading Division and he later came in to play a very big part, eventually forming the Communications Division. The first time we put a radio in the

Ringwood/Nunawading vehicle was in preparation for some vehicles to go to Tasmania during the very, very bad fires they had over there. At such times the CFA assisted by installing CFA vehicle radios, or were starting to at any rate, when the call came through advising that the fires had been brought under control and we were not now required.

We were fairly well organised at that stage. The CFA would give us as much advance warning as they could when we were going out to a fire and would state how urgent it was. Very, very seldom was it ever necessary to use a siren or red light in those days and, of course, soon after reaching our destination, a radio base was set up here with HF being the only really usable radio for any distance. The only event for which VHF was used was for local distances, at least, this is what we thought at the time. Anyway, there was a search for a missing lady on Mount Buffalo. Using ground planes (radio equipment) and other systems we found the VHF radio, the old CB type radio was more efficient at Buffalo than the HF. We solved some of the HF problems fairly soon after this, but, at that stage, we were picking up the field parties and the main parties from Buffalo with no trouble at all, much to the dismay of the Civil Defence people there who were trying to use the same channel. We were blotting them out completely.

We were by no means restricted to bushfires. We had an exercise with other rescue organisations and the police, resulting from a mishap in the bay. The exercise was timed for round about 5 o'clock in the morning. Derek Bateman, as the Co-ordinator from our point of view, was in the radio room with us. We had a scanner going at the time and we heard the police announce the fact that they were going to call St John. So Derek hovered his hand over the phone and, about 5 seconds later, off went the phone. They must have considered this to be one of the fastest answered phones in the service.

The term "Communication Centre" for here, at the moment at any rate, has been in service for a long time. I was in hospital and unfortunately unable to

go to the Bairnsdale bushfires. The wives - or nearly all the wives, or so it seemed - whose husbands were down at Bairnsdale, flocked into our shop, or our home, asking my wife what was going on, how we were getting on, and full particulars, and this continued throughout the years.

One of the most common things which caused a little bit of concern was the sort of after hours calls we used to get following Moomba or during Moomba, for example:- The Field Control at Moomba would radio us, possibly about 2 o'clock in the morning, with a request, "could we contact such and such parents as their children or one of their children was a little bit the worse for wear". One of the most pathetic answers that we got from one of the parents was, "they got themselves into this mess, let them get themselves out of it, we're not interested". I don't blame the children of those parents for what they did. The other side of the story, of course, is worried St John mothers and fathers checking on their protégés. Colin Smith was one of the earliest people in Communications connected with Cadets and he used to hold regular exercises with these Cadets. Sometimes they would be a little late getting away and we would have anxious parents phoning up. We would then radio Colin and ask "Whereabouts are you on your leave off trip?" enabling us to then reassure concerned parents.

Because the Communication Centre is listed as such in the telephone book, and because Communications now means more than just radio, we often get calls from Organisations, people interested in First Aid classes, and people who mistake us for the current Ambulance Service in the State. One of the most interesting calls that I have had was the fate of a barman who had cut himself very badly following a fall down stairs at one of Melbourne's hotels. They phoned us here and we were able to give them directions as to how to apply immediate First Aid, while my wife was on the other phone calling Melbourne Ambulance Service.

We got used to having a radio by our bed at night, together with the other phone. Now, of course, communications are so much more active, this is by no means practical and, apart from listening occasionally at night just to see that our own boys are doing the right thing, or if there is a late duty and the operator has had to go home, we very rarely use our after hours radio.

Ian Havin overhauled our call sign system shortly after coming into Communications in that capacity - Divisional capacity that is - and we used to have an old call sign "Foxtrot". At one of the exercises held at the St John Camp the Field Control vehicle named "Foxtrot" was asked a question and Mrs Shirley Moxon, quite without thinking, replied to her call "Oh, this is Foxtrot love!" Never have we let her forget that.

Colin Smith has become quite a notable person in the Brigade, particularly within Communications and, with his love of Cadets, he has obviously succeeded in combining both. At VFL Park he has Cadets working for him as much as possible when practical, and he also has a backing of WICEN Australia (Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network), the Amateur Radio Group. I believe it was not uncommon to see Colin with a Brigade radio, a UHF radio, on one shoulder and an Amateur Radio Portable on the other. Through the Public Address system he had a link with the Controller of the ground, or with the man who monitored the PA system and, as he was also an Amateur, Colin would call him on an Amateur Radio Portable and this gentleman would give out a message over the PA system if so required.

This brings me to another aspect of WICEN and the Amateur Radio side. I am sorry to dwell so much on Colin but just lately he has been popping up quite a lot. His connection with the Amateur Radio was most noticeable at the Easter Cadet Camp. On St John amateur radio network, he was able to contact one Cadet's father - now there's nothing unusual in this, except that the father happened to be in Antarctica at the time, and it was a most delighted Cadet and parent who spoke to

each other over that distance. Colin has been a good publicity point in making St John known in many parts of the world and locally - I believe St John in South Australia is trying to set up the same system. It is a means of preparing radio operators for our Brigade network. It is a means also of contact into other networks, which is essential in the case of bushfires. Even for everyday commitments, such as the Bike Marathon Race from Wodonga to Melbourne, St John teams were available and organised all the way down. Communication was either by Brigade radio or by Amateur Radio through WICEN and the whole exercise was highly commended.

The radio base here has moved around twice up to date. I was due in hospital for a perforated oesophagus and, by the time I came out, Max Phelan had organised the UHF from his own home through land lines to a pole at Mount Waverley, and through land lines going into town to Headquarters. A very expensive exercise which unfortunately from time to time broke down due to somebody taking over our link during times such as at VFL Matches which was, of course, one of the times when we needed it most. After Max left the Brigade he relinquished all the radio equipment and it gradually came back here again, first the HF and then, later, the UHF.

I had quite a high pole out the back but, after we did our house extensions, it became necessary to modify this, so we put a pole right up through the bedroom wall. Thanks to the Broadmeadows boys in particular, with their rescue unit, they got the pole up, helped of course by our then quite active Communications Division. We have several photographs of our own members pulling on the guy wires and generally assisting. When it was first put up it was very handy because when the Broadmeadows Squad went home they lost a wheel on the Tullamarine Freeway. Thanks to the pole, although only up to its first extension, we were able to communicate with them and then with their own Divisional operatives, tow-trucks and police, because the road had become completely jammed.

That pole has greatly grown but it is a pole which goes "creak" in the night. Not by design, but by accident with the prevailing winds here, if that pole comes down, by present calculations it would hit my wife's side of the bed, not mine.

Our calls are not restricted to searches and bushfires, we are also into the Pop scene. In fact, one of our first calls, if not the first, was to the Beatles in town. I was very thankful to have my steel-capped boots on, on that occasion.

Our second major Pop occasion was the Sunbury Pop Festival. We had a link from Base to the Communications vehicle at the Festival. The Communications vehicle, in turn, controlled all the Field Units, both hand-held, on foot, and mobile units, and went out throughout the Pop scene area. You've heard, of course, the story of the baby whose mother was in an advanced stage of labour when brought to the Field Hospital provided by St John, being born with its hands over its ears! I think this might be quite a possibility.

The number of radio units I know now is far in excess of those earlier days and this has been taken into consideration. The latest expansion is for the whole of this base, as far as control is concerned, to be moved into Headquarters, the aerial system to be scattered throughout the metropolitan area in the most suitable places and to expand even to the extent of a Repeater. This will shortly take place and it will make us one of the biggest networks in Victoria. This is necessary because, to control something like a disaster at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, while we may not have our rescue uniforms or hard helmets, there is still much we can do to support "First Aid to the Injured".

As anticipated, as soon as space became available at Headquarters, 285 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, the Communications network for the Brigade was transferred from a private home at Glen Waverley to the City.

This was made possible when the St John Ambulance Association set up a Training Centre at

418 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, thus enabling District Officer Ian Havin to transfer the Communications Section to the top floor of the Headquarters building. This was effected during September 1986.

Despite the fact that the room is not yet completely set up, it is staffed every weekend, on public holidays, and during any disaster period.

When activated, the equipment will send or receive messages, this being achieved by using Telecom landlines and operating through Telecom Exchanges for which a rental is paid. These facilities enable messages to be conducted to a very high air mast at Huntingtower School, Mount Waverley - this is called the transmission site. A rental is paid to the School for the privilege of using its mast.

The Communications Section also has a new system operating whereby a signal transmitted from St John Headquarters building is beamed

through the air to access the mast at Mt. Waverley from where it is broadcast - this is called a Repeater System.

There are two very good reasons for having the mast at Mt. Waverley.

1. Regulations of the Department of Communications do not permit messages to be sent from the City area.

2. The very high antenna mast gives strength to signals and allows them to be sent over greater distances. A high mast is essential if messages are to be sent over mountainous areas.

The Communications Section attached to District Headquarters has been renamed the "Communications Group".

The Communications network is still developing and this will include the establishment of additional Base stations, in regional areas.

Casualty Union

When First Aid competitions were introduced into the activities of Voluntary Aid Detachments and St John Ambulance Brigade Divisions, teams competed for the honour of being acclaimed the best First Aiders in the State. Competition was fierce, as the Victorian Railways and other outside organisations with St John affiliations also entered teams.

At this time, which was during the 1930s, injuries were indicated on casualties with lipstick, adhesive tape and plasticine. It was then up to the Captain of the team, who asked questions of the Adjudicator, to deduce from the answers the exact injuries and condition of the casualty and to decide on the treatment to be applied.

This was a good way of assessing the knowledge of the Captain for, if the First Aid Manual had not been diligently studied, it would not be possible for the right questions to be asked. However, it was time-consuming and really did little to exploit the powers of observation and application of first aid principles in effecting a correct diagnosis. For instance, a line of lipstick was assessed as a wound but, was it a deep wound, was it clean cut, were there foreign bodies in it, what colour was the blood, how was it coming from the wound - spurting, oozing or flowing steadily? As for the casualty's condition, questions had to be asked, even as to the colour of the face. Likewise, with other conditions.

It was realised that, for competition purposes, presentation of casualties had to be improved. A major step was taken when, during the 1940s, Mrs Bertha Jago, a member of the YWCA Nursing Division, gave a demonstration and lecture on

simulated injuries and conditions of casualties. Mrs Jago knew her subject well and created enthusiasm and interest in her audience. As a result, a number of St John members were trained in make-up techniques but, as Mrs Jago was transferred to Sydney by the Gas and Fuel Corporation for whom she worked, she was unable to finish the job she started and enjoy the fruits of her labour. However, she had the satisfaction of knowing she left behind the nucleus of a casualty make-up section of the Brigade and, for a considerable time, Miss Thelma Peverill and Mrs Florence Hibbert accepted responsibility for the presentation of casualties for competitions.

Using the skills that had been taught and developed, wounds were presented so realistically with gaping or lacerated edges or with foreign bodies embedded, it was difficult to accept they were only simulated, while fractures, burns and other injuries were equally accurately presented. This was more like dealing with actual accident victims and resulted in a marked improvement in the handling of casualties by teams, and a raising of the general standard of their first aid.

The quality of simulated conditions improved even further as Dr Howard became interested and made his knowledge available to members of the Casualty Make-up Section of the Brigade. He took over training, and members were taught acting skills, so that patient response to various conditions could be reproduced.

District Officer Mr Robert Dymond joined the group and took over its administration. It was then called Casualty Union and the presentation of casualties at competition time was fantastic. There

was little that could not be accomplished by the skilled members of the group. Arterial blood spurted from wounds, hysterical patients screamed and yelled and casualties writhed and groaned with pain.

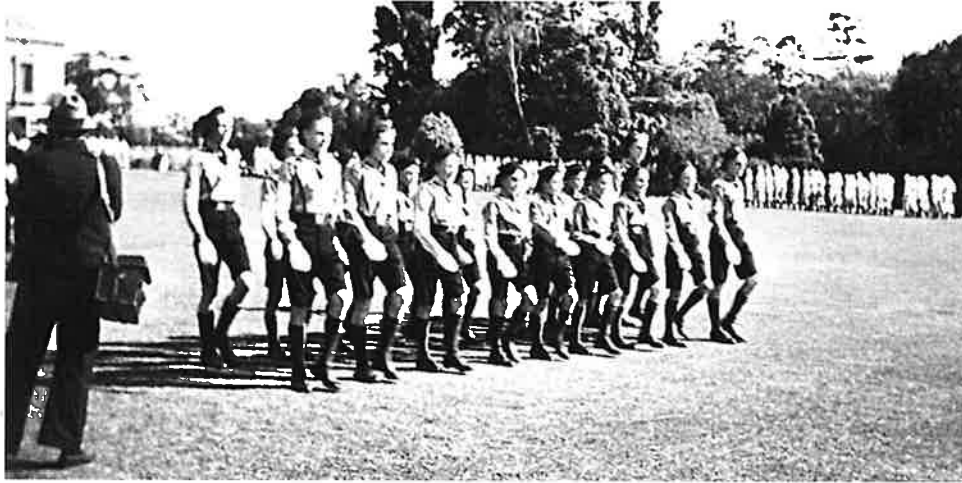
Mr Dymond took advantage of a holiday trip to England to join the British Casualty Union Group, where he was able to observe its method of operation and obtain training manuals etc. On returning to Australia he set up a Casualty Union Auxiliary as a separate entity from the St John Ambulance Brigade and, for many years, trained personnel in make-up skills.

Eventually, dissatisfaction grew from differences of opinions and the stipulations the Casualty Union

Auxiliary required to be observed for their services at competition time, and the group gradually dispersed.

The Cadet Section of the Brigade has now accepted full responsibility for the presentation of casualties for competitions and those responsible are doing a splendid job.

Casualty simulation has been, and always will be, an incentive to better first aid. Victoria led the field in the development of this work. May it continue to maintain and indeed, improve the high standard of performance produced in past years.



Cadets on parade at Government House Annual Inspection in the late.1930's.



Members at Government House Annual Parade in late 1930's.



Drive past by Motorcycle Division at Government House Annual Parade in late 1930's



Governor Sir Rohan Delacombe with Ida Freeman, Dr Arthur Burton and Max Phelan



Douglas Hein with Mavis Hein receiving her Priory Vote of Thanks from D/O Gwladys Hulls



Col. Bob Payne, Deputy Commissioner of London District, UK, meets Governor Sir Henry Winneke

St John Ambulance Brigade Activities and Duties

Despite the fact that Rescue Squad and Mobile Nursing personnel only represented a special section of the Brigade and they still retained membership of their original Divisions, adverse feelings developed between them and their fellow members. This was possibly brought about by the very misguided human trait of a display of superiority by some members plus the knowledge that most of the Brigade funds were being utilised to maintain vehicles and equipment for the Rescue Section to the detriment of Divisions. Also, many new members were joining not from a desire to give service to others, but for the excitement and glory associated with Rescue Squad activities.

While taking nothing away from the Rescue Squad operation, it was the regular, reliable work of the Divisions, which provided such a strong foundation for the Brigade as a whole. Attendance at local

functions stimulated the support of the Municipal Councils and Organisations such as Apex, Lions, Rotary and many others. Appreciation of the service given by St John was so frequently expressed by presentations of vehicles, equipment and property, thereby upgrading the facilities of Divisions and enabling them to maintain a high quality service for the public.

The black and white uniforms of Brigade members have become a familiar sight as scarcely any public function or sporting event takes place without a representative of St John being there to attend to First Aid requirements. However, over the years, many major events have offered a challenge to the Brigade and each has been successfully met despite overwhelming odds, as will be seen by the following:-

Royal Visit:

In anticipation of the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, Melbourne's city had been spruced up, buildings had been steam-cleaned, and streets decorated with banners and bunting, crowns and arches. This was the first time a reigning monarch had visited Australia and, after months of preparation and organising, the city and its people waited eagerly for a glimpse of their recently crowned young Queen.

Arriving at Essendon Airport on 24th February 1954, where 3,000 people had gathered, the Royal Party was cheered and welcomed by nearly one million people spread along the eleven-mile route

to the city. The crowd was closely packed around four main reception points, thousands having camped overnight in the street to make certain of a good vantage point. People climbed trees and brick walls on to roofs and bridges, and stood on boxes, chairs and step-ladders to get a better view of the Queen and the Duke.

Remaining in Victoria until the 9th March, when the Royal Party left by air to visit Queensland, the Queen's itinerary included many official functions - the opening of a Parliamentary Session, visiting hospitals and institutions, attending sporting activities, to mention but a few. In addition, some 70,000 ex-servicemen and women, war widows,

and 600 junior legatees warmly welcomed Her Majesty and the Duke at a moving ceremony staged at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. A Ball at Government House given by the Governor, Sir Dallas Brooks, brought pageantry and colour to the fore, while the State Banquet in the Royale Ballroom at the Exhibition Building on Saturday 27th February presented a glittering fairyland scene.

On the 4th March, more than 100,000 people crowded into the Melbourne Cricket Ground to watch a magnificent display of gymnastics and maypole dancing given by 17,000 children in honour of the Queen.

Often standing for hours, people waited to catch a glimpse of the Royal Party wherever they went. Being fully aware of this, the Queen and the Duke made every effort to allow the public to see them. The Queen's generosity in this regard was evident when, on returning by train from a tour of country cities and towns, she and the Duke stood for two hours on the observation platform to acknowledge the greetings of people lining both sides of the railway track. The speed of the train was reduced at her request.

Providing first aid facilities to cover this fourteen-day Royal Visit was the mammoth task which confronted the St John Ambulance Brigade. Everything went as planned however, as Brigadier W.W.S. Johnston, the Commissioner of the Brigade in Victoria, Colonel A. Christie, the District Superintendent, and other officers had spent months in preparing for this duty.

First Aid Posts were placed along the routes of the Royal Progress, 46 of them on the day of the

Queen's arrival. They were in factories, garages, schools, churches, business premises, and in the Brigade's own tents. Women of the Nursing Divisions staffed the Posts, while the men worked in the streets giving First Aid. If patients did not recover with immediate treatment, the men took them to the Aid Posts from where they either recovered or were sent to hospital. In addition, Brigade men patrolled the route in pairs in front of the crowd where they could easily be seen.

On the night of the Queen's arrival, decorative lights were switched on so that main buildings in the city stood out prominently, while coloured searchlights lit up the sky. A spectacular fireworks display attracted a huge crowd, the banks of the Yarra River being lined with spectators. At a First Aid Post near Princes Bridge, three streams of people met. A large proportion of the 400 casualties treated that night stemmed from this area, where pushing, jostling, and general panic took place.

During the period of the Royal Visit, 5200 man-days of voluntary service were given, many members working from early morning to midnight. They dealt with 2500 cases of fainting, collapse, accidents and the effects of crushing and trampling.

Brigadier Johnston and Colonel Christie expressed appreciation to General Motors-Holden Limited for the contribution of a Holden car, free of charge, for use during the period of the visit. This enabled personnel and equipment to be transported over hundreds of miles not only in the metropolitan area, but also to country districts where additional help was required. Thanks were also conveyed to the many employers who released Brigade personnel without any loss to them of pay or privileges.

Olympic Games: (22nd November to 8th December 1956)

Large crowds were anticipated to attend the 1956 Olympic Games, which Melbourne was to host.

Colonel A Christie, District Superintendent of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District, was

well equipped to plan and organise the First Aid coverage for the Games, as he was able to call on his experience as Assistant Director-General of Army Medical Services during the war.

Providing Brigade members to cope with the programme was not an easy task as many events were held during normal working hours, thereby limiting the number of personnel available for duty. Venues were not always conveniently situated and, when arranging rosters, travelling time and transport also had to be taken into consideration. All ranks responded magnificently to the challenge, however, and every venue was fully staffed at all times.

The Duke of Edinburgh officially opened the Olympic Games and, on the 22nd November - the day of his arrival in Melbourne - 100,000 people lined the streets along which he travelled.

A crowd of 103,000 was attracted to the Melbourne Cricket Ground to witness a spectacular opening ceremony and to cheer and applaud Ron Clarke when he entered the ground bearing the Olympic

torch. After completing a lap of the MCG, he carried the torch to a platform high above the arena where he lit the flame in the cauldron. A mighty ovation greeted this action and Ron Clarke would have felt very proud of his contribution to the success of this day. It was not known until later that, because of the set-up of the cauldron, Ron sustained a painful burn to his arm as the flame came to life.

A number of names will be long remembered: those of John Landy, who took the oath on behalf of 3,170 competitors representing sixty-seven countries; Betty Cuthbert, the "Golden Girl" of sprinting; Shirley Strickland, champion hurdler; swimmers Murray Rose and Dawn Fraser, and many others.

Brigade members, too, will remember the part they played in the 1956 Olympic Games for, according to statistics available, an average of 150 reported for duty each day, approximately 17,000 man-hours of service was given, and some 2500 casualties treated.

The David Cassidy Show:

David Cassidy, the current idol of teenagers in 1976, arranged to give a performance at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and, after the Sunbury Festival duty, it was anticipated that this one would probably prove interesting, but not as hectic or intense as Sunbury. What a miscalculation!

The weather was hot, and youngsters who had been standing in queues or groups since early morning began to suffer from the heat and initial excitement. They were quite unprepared for the weather and the waiting around, not wearing any head coverings, and not carrying any drinks with them. Many probably made an early start from home and possibly were also too excited to eat breakfast.

Casualties outside the ground were coped with quite well but, when the gates opened, a situation developed which required reinforcements to deal with the first aid emergencies, which occurred.

Only those who have experienced mass hysteria can imagine the scene when the youngsters gained admittance to the ground. Hundreds of screaming, writhing, hysterical girls aged between 10 and 16 years were carried from the crowd by First Aiders, Police, and other helpers; and cared for at the St John First Aid Posts. The more serious cases were passed through to the First Aid Rooms in the stand where a small number of Nursing members worked under great pressure (in one instance it was one

Nursing member with the valued help of Cadets). Never have so many cold compresses and so much reassurance been dispensed in such a short but hectic time.

Brigade Ambulance and Nursing members, together with Ambulance and Nursing Cadets,

worked feverishly side by side to help these youngsters. In such an emergency as this, regardless of the many obstacles, which over a long period of time had caused a little ill feeling between the various sections of the Brigade, everyone worked well together with the common aim of service.

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusade:

To give some idea of the magnitude of some of the duties which confronted the Brigade, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusade, which took place at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1959 attracted a crowd of 143,000. The Ground was packed, with hundreds of people spilling out on to the sports arena. Statistics for this occasion are not available but, without doubt, it would not only have been a

memorable day for members of St John, but an extremely busy one.

The Papal Tour 1986

When Pope John Paul II accepted an invitation from the Australian National Government to be its guest for a visit to this country during 1986 - the International Year of Peace - an historical event was set in motion.

The Papal Visit from the 24th November, 1986, to the 1st December, 1986 involved a 10,000 kilometre journey which took Pope John Paul II through all State Capitals, Canberra, Darwin and Alice Springs. His agenda included eight outdoor Masses and visits to a Parish School, a steel factory, a Maternity Hospital, a University, an aboriginal area and an Anglican Cathedral. A full programme by any standard, and one which only a very dedicated, physically fit person could undertake.

As Head of State of the Holy See this brave man, who had already been the target of an assassin's bullet in 1981, personally carried messages of peace and hope to many parts of a world dominated by violence. Wherever he travelled, his presence brought pleasure and a renewal of faith to the people.

Concentrating on the Victorian section of the Tour, its success was dependent upon good organisation. District Officer Brian Carey was Co-ordinator for the first aid/medical coverage and was ably supported by members of the Medical Steering Committee comprised as under:-

District Commissioner	Dr E.W. Brentnall
Deputy Commissioner	Colonel L.J. Newell
District Surgeon	Dr A.S. Davis
District Nursing Officer	Sister B.I. Davis
District Superintendent (A)	N.Mason
District Superintendent (N)	Sister M.Green
District Officers	J Hulls, J Ireland, K Shields, I Havin, T Macfarlane, S Granger, Colonel B Purser
Corps Superintendents	W.Foley, M.J.Penaluna, Mrs M.B.Carey
Corps Sergeant-Major	F Kuffer
Divisional Superintendent	Miss D Bache

The time-table and programme to be observed in connection with the Papal Visit was as follows:

Thursday, 27 November, 1986	
6.50 pm	Tullamarine Airport
7.50 pm	St Paul's Cathedral
8.15 pm	Welcome/Ecumenical Service at Melbourne Cricket Ground
Friday, 28 November, 1986	
8.40 am	St Leo's Parish Church and School North Altona
10.25am	Teachers, graduates, students of Catholic Teachers' Colleges at Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Centre.
11.45am	Catholic Clergy and Seminarians at St Patrick's Cathedral
1.00 pm	BREAK
3.15 pm	Ozanam House
4.00 pm	Papal Mass at Flemington Racecourse
7.15 pm	Mercy Maternity Hospital
8.15 pm	Polish Community Function at Melbourne Cricket Ground
Saturday, 29 November, 1986	
8.00 am	Tullamarine Airport

In anticipation of the presence of thousands of people at many of these functions, plus those who lined the roadways of routes used hoping to gain a glimpse of Pope John Paul II, the enormity of the task confronting those responsible was awe-inspiring.

Security was vital for protection of the Pope who, when travelling to and from venues, stood in the Popemobile so that he could easily be seen. The Popemobile, a Mercedes vehicle fitted with a high perspex shield, provided safety for the occupant without restricting visibility.

So far as St John arrangements were concerned, all venues required staffing with personnel, equipment, vehicles, and a good communication system. Good relationships existed between all Services, and Ambulance Service Melbourne, Police, and Transport personnel co-operated well throughout the Papal visit.

The following are of interest:-

27th November, 1986:	Crowd	Casualties
Arrival at Tullamarine	Approx. 2,500	Nil
St Paul's Cathedral	Approx. 3,000	2
Melbourne Cricket Ground	Approx. 58,000 (100,000 had been expected)	82
28th November, 1986		
St. Leo's, North Altona	Approx. 5/6,000	4
Sports & Entertainment Centre	Capacity	2
St Patrick's Cathedral	Capacity	-
Flemington Racecourse	Less than the 120,000 expected	110
Melbourne Cricket Ground (Polish Reception)	Approximately 25,000	31

St John personnel on duty over the two-day period totalled 496.

As the weather was decidedly cool, attendances were not so large as anticipated. The cool weather no doubt also kept down the number of casualties. Arrangements had been made, however, to cope

with the expected numbers, so each duty was more than adequately provided with first aid/medical coverage.

In order to fully appreciate the organisation and involvement of St John in the Papal Tour, the following facts are given :-

Flemington Racecourse:

The Altar, duly glamorised but created from steel containers used for freighting goods by sea, was positioned in the centre area of the Racecourse with aisled sections of seats before it. Each section was numbered and embodied into a colour scheme, which was repeated, in the tickets issued. This enabled patrons to easily locate seats allotted to them.

A Field Hospital was set up by St John under the Hill Stand so that it could function in conjunction with the main Racecourse Casualty Room nearby, where a Doctor was on duty. Eleven Mobile First Aid Units were stationed at specific points round the course to cover emergencies in any section, while special resuscitation facilities were also provided.

Transport authorities increased rail and tram services and the public was well served in this respect. A second railway platform at Flemington had been prepared for this occasion and train crews

were doubled. Each train carried a Driver and a Guard at each end, which conserved time as the crew did not have to walk the length of the platform to change ends. As soon as passengers had alighted and the way was clear, the train returned to Melbourne for another load. It was an excellent plan and trains were coming and going at 5-10 minute intervals.

Sections of each train were allocated for the use of disabled persons and special ramps for the chairs were placed in position on the station platforms, with staff standing by to help if required. Occupants of wheel chairs were assisted to their section of the Racecourse by members of the Scout Movement or by Lifesavers.

Although authorities anticipated moving the expected numbers would take about four hours, the arrangements functioned so smoothly that the area was cleared in a short period of time.

Melbourne Cricket Ground:

At this venue St John personnel are accustomed to coping with large crowds-the five First Aid Rooms were operating, resuscitation teams with special equipment were there and support was given by additional Doctors, State Registered Nurses, and Brigade members.

Similar arrangements to those used at Flemington Racecourse applied with regard to handicapped, or frail and elderly people. Wheel chairs were provided for their use and Scouts and Lifesavers pushed the chairs and their occupants to the Olympic Room which had been set aside for them. On the first day, 600-800 people were accommodated there while, on the second day, when the Polish function took place, 250 enjoyed the facilities of this special room. It was particularly helpful on the second day to have five Polish Doctors and ten Polish State Registered

Nurses on duty, as this eliminated language problems with casualties.

Security precautions were observed at all times. These were so well executed that, when a bomb scare occurred at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, people were quietly transferred from various locations, First Aid Rooms were closed and thorough searches carried out, with very few people being aware that anything out of the ordinary was happening. The bomb scare proved to be a hoax, but full credit to the Security Staff responsible for the handling of this emergency. There was no panic and their efficiency was outstanding.

On his departure from Melbourne for Darwin, Alice Springs and other Australian cities, Pope John Paul II, though tired, would surely be excused

for feeling some gratification that his messages of peace and goodwill had reached so many people. For the many organisations and individuals responsible for ensuring a successful, trouble-free visit, this Papal Tour provided an opportunity to co-ordinate various Services. The smooth

operation produced proved that with good administration and organisation this can be achieved.

A letter of appreciation from the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, dated 2nd December 1986, is reproduced on Page 137.

“Pop” Concerts “The Bay City Rollers”

Over the years many “Pop” singing artists and groups have given performances to Melbourne audiences, these consisting mainly of young teenagers. At these concerts, a condition of mass hysteria rapidly develops and, even before artists appear on the stage, it is evidently an understood and accepted behavioural pattern for the audience to commence screaming, and screaming, and screaming..... When the performers do appear, even with massive amplification, they are often unable to be heard. To older people it seems a rather expensive, self-indulgent night out but to the teenagers, it is fabulous.

“The Bay City Rollers” were scheduled to appear at the studios of ABV Channel 2 during the afternoon of Saturday 4th December 1976 and at Festival Hall, Melbourne, on the nights of 5th and 6th December 1976. District Officer Mervyn Goodall, assisted by Corps Superintendent Brian Carey and Corps Superintendent George Jackson, was responsible for this duty and the following arrangements were made:-

ABV Channel 2 - Saturday 4th December 1976:

Twenty Brigade Ambulance and Nursing personnel were on duty from 2.30pm until 7.45pm. Vehicles from three Divisions were also in attendance.

Festival Hall - Sunday 5th December 1976:

Approximately 50 Brigade personnel (including 1 Corps Surgeon and 1 Probationary Surgeon) were rostered for duty from 4.00pm. Vehicles from four Divisions were present.

Festival Hall - Monday 6th December 1976:

Approximately 70 members (including 1 Corps surgeon, 2 Probationary Surgeons and 2 State Registered Nurses) were on duty from 5.00pm, while vehicles from five Divisions attended. South Melbourne Division supplied an auxiliary lighting unit for use in the outside area. This was excellent and proved beneficial to all.

Chief Inspector Phil Bennett of the Victoria Police Force had 25 to 30 police working with him at Festival Hall but this number was flexible as, according to the need, he either radioed for assistance or despatched his men elsewhere. His foresight in closing off Rosslyn Street provided a section for the treatment of casualties and an area where Brigade vehicles could be stationed. It was reassuring on both nights to be frequently asked by him if assistance was required or if there were any problems with which he could help. The presence and co-operation of members of the Police Force were greatly appreciated throughout this duty.

Inside the building, in anticipation of a busy night, members of St John arranged for water, ice, paper bags and other First Aid items to be placed in selected positions around the hall, also in the side sections which would soon become treatment areas for those who had fainted and for overwrought patrons. It was obvious to ushers on duty at Festival Hall that the patrons preferred to stand upon, rather than sit on the seats. The fact that a great deal of money had been paid for the privilege of having good seats seemed of little importance.

Even before the show started, girls began to scream. Many worked themselves into a trance-like state, swaying from side to side, with eyes closed, either moaning or emitting deep sobs. Brigade members didn't have long to wait for their first casualty. It was 8.10pm and the support act had not yet appeared on the stage. The girl, after being treated, kicked, bit and clawed at her helpers. On attempting to run, she staggered and again fainted. As she returned to consciousness and became aware of her surroundings, the girl hissed and fought with anyone nearby. Her evening with the "Bay City Rollers" must have proved a great disappointment for, after the support act sang its opening number, she was again carried out for treatment.

As the support act left the stage, the lights were switched off. When they came on again, the "Bay City Rollers" were there! This was the moment for which frenzied fans had been waiting. The screaming became one long, penetrating banshee wail, disastrous to eardrums, while the throbbing rhythm of the bass guitar, magnified one hundred times as it pulsed through speakers, added to the noise and pandemonium.

Of the dozens of teenagers carried out, one eleven-year-old girl took about twenty-five minutes to revive. Her appearance was that of a battle casualty. Her tartan and white Rollerjeans were in shreds and her T-shirt was badly torn. Her mother must have been frantic with worry as she searched through casualties looking for her daughter. On

finding her in a very emotional state and heaving deep sobs, she boxed her ears. This may have relieved the mother's tension somewhat, but it was of little help to the girl whose hysterical condition returned and she again lapsed into unconsciousness.

Members of the Brigade acquitted themselves well at this very trying duty, using plenty of common-sense in the treatment of casualties and, above all, dispensing a great deal of TLC (tender loving care) to these often very frightened teenagers.

Casualties recorded:-

A.B.V. Channel 2 8

Festival Hall 5/12/76 approximately 150

Festival Hall 6/12/76 over 200 (Four required further medical care and three were conveyed to hospital by ambulance).

At the conclusion of the Sunday night concert, Brigade members were sent to the Hilton Hotel in East Melbourne where enthusiastic fans of the "Bay City Rollers" had gathered hoping to catch another glimpse of their idols. Fortunately the crowd dispersed peacefully and their services were not required.

With groups such as the "Beatles" and other widely known "Pop" celebrities giving concerts in Melbourne, the Brigade became used to dealing with the casualties, but never to the noise.

Football:

Victorians, being avid football followers, turn out in their thousands each weekend during the winter months to watch and barrack for favourite teams and, as the end of the season approaches, "footy fever" usually has a strong grip on the community.

Unless they personally require assistance, however, few people realise that St John members have been present at all grounds throughout the season and that, while they have been absorbed in watching a match, drama has often been taking place in the First Aid Room.

In view of the large attendances recorded at Finals Series matches played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and VFL Park, meticulous organisation of Brigade personnel at these matches is essential. As Duty Officer at the MCG, District Officer Keith Evans shouldered this responsibility for many years, being succeeded by District Officer Merv Goodall who, in turn, handed the task over to Corps Superintendent Brian Carey and, with the capable assistance of Corps Officer (Admin.) Mrs Merle Carey, the entire football Series Finals invariably proves a very smooth St John duty.

At the MCG five First Aid Rooms are equipped and staffed, while at VFL Park, where for many years Corps Superintendent Alec Donald and Sister Deveney were in charge, nine rooms are in use. A mobile First Aid Unit is usually positioned outside the respective grounds so that prompt treatment can be given to any casualties occurring in that area.

In addition to having St John Ambulance men and Ambulance Cadets on duty right around the ground, the MCG and VFL Park each have the services of two St John mobile resuscitation teams which are positioned one on each side of the ground. A team comprises 1 Doctor, 1 State Registered Nurse, 1 Ambulance Officer (a Mobile Intensive Care (MICA) Ambulance Officer wherever possible), 1 Radio Operator, and 1 Senior Cadet, each member being a highly trained specialist in resuscitation. The teams carry up-to-date equipment which, combined with the knowledge and skill of members and the ability to speed quickly to a casualty, provide a second-to-none life support service. This arrangement has been made possible as a direct result of the friendly relationship, which now exists between St John and the Ambulance Service Melbourne. There is close co-operation between the organisations and a number of active members of ASM have become members of the Brigade with Ambulance Officer appointments.

Resuscitation teams at VFL Park, Waverley, are extremely fortunate in that their equipment now includes a "Life-Pak" - a lightweight defibrillator

used in conjunction with an electro-cardiogram machine. The Victorian Football League purchased the "Life-Pak" for the benefit of football patrons attending matches at VFL Park. This piece of equipment must be signed for by a Doctor who then becomes responsible for its care, operation and safe return to the authorities of VFL Park at the end of the day.

In specially located positions where they and the resuscitation teams can see each other at all times, five groups of St John personnel provide support for the resuscitation teams. When an emergency arises, the nearest group proceeds quickly to the scene, provides backup first aid assistance, stretcher, blankets, and any other necessities for the casualty. Many lives have been saved by the prompt attention given to people who suffered a cardiac arrest whilst at the football.

The mentality of crowds is sometimes difficult to understand. One such occasion occurred at a Finals Series Match being staged at the MCG in 1983 where a capacity crowd attended. The Stands were packed to overflowing, many people sitting or standing in the aisles. As the game progressed, the crowd roared encouragement to players and abuse to the Umpires, and excitement grew to fever pitch.

It was too much for one elderly gentleman seated high up in a Stand for he suddenly suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed. The St John men, alerted to the emergency, had great difficulty in reaching the man, as people in the aisles would not move to let them through. Even when they did get to him and started resuscitative treatment, they were cramped for room. Transporting the casualty from the upper area of the Stand whilst maintaining resuscitation proved a Herculean task and should not have been encountered.

Although the patient was almost "lost" on two occasions, the efforts of the St John members, both outside and inside the Ambulance Room, continued and the man was alive when an Ambulance conveyed him to the Prince Henry's Hospital, but his chances of survival appeared slim. Imagine the

amazement of Brigade personnel when, two weeks later, they saw the same man, sitting in almost the same place high up in the stand, watching his beloved football again.

It is gratifying to know that many letters of appreciation from grateful patients and/or families are received at Headquarters, but it is the satisfaction of knowing a job well done that makes

the discomfort and weariness often experienced at duties fade right away.

Bushfires 1983:

Despite intimate knowledge of the ravages of bushfires, as the years pass, complacency seems to govern many Australians and precautions against a “repeat performance” are either forgotten or ignored. Scrub and bush areas are not kept in check, areas adjacent to homes are allowed to be cluttered with materials and equipment (much of it too old to be of use), and supervision by local authorities is either lax or missing altogether. A dangerous combination of carelessness when a drought has left the country tinder dry and temperatures soar to 43°C.

Such was the condition of Victoria on the 16th February, 1983 (“Ash Wednesday”) when the worst fires experienced raged throughout areas of South Eastern Victoria. They broke out everywhere - at Dean’s Marsh, a township on the other side of the Otway Ranges, opposite Lorne; at East Trentham, Framlingham, in the Western District; at Belgrave Heights and Cockatoo in the Dandenong Hills; at Warburton in the Upper Yarra Valley, and at Mount Macedon. The toll in lives and property was tragic - 46 dead, 1719 homes lost, 330,000 hectares destroyed and 25,000 stock wiped out - at a total cost of more than \$20,000,000.

Strong winds fanning the fires caused them to spread quickly and people who survived will never completely erase from their memories the speed and roar of the flames as fires bore down upon them. Small charred leaves and debris were blown

into Melbourne homes, covering a distance of some 30-40 miles. The terrifying experiences of trying to outrun flames, overcome the lack of visibility and darkness caused by thick smoke, recognise areas and roads which were normally so familiar but now were so difficult to find, the trauma of evacuating homes, leaving animals, and ignorance of the fate of families and friends, left survivors in a shocked, stunned state. This brought about a condition, which demanded so much more care and understanding from First Aiders and medical teams and was one which would persist for a long time.

Since the State Emergency Service was created by the Victorian Government, all Organisations involved with emergencies are now co-ordinated. With Police supervising operations, personnel from the Fire Brigade, Country Fire Authority, Forest Commission, Army, Navy and Air Force, St John, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Welfare Organisations and volunteers generally, are organised and their skills directed into the areas of their training.

The position was desperate in February 1983 and St John personnel were quick to respond to the call for help. First Aid Posts were set up in the many fire areas and staffed by Ambulance and Nursing members who worked long hours, often under very difficult conditions, treating hundreds of casualties.

A conservative estimate of the Brigade’s overall involvement in this emergency was:

Man-Hours 8,000
Vehicle hours 700
Casualties treated 4,250
Expenses \$4,350
Value of assistance given by public hospitals
and pharmaceutical companies \$3,000
Supplies from Divisional Stocks \$2,000
In recognition of the outstanding service rendered
by a number of members and units of the Brigade,
the Chief Commissioner made the following
awards:-

Meritorious Service Certificate

Mr W.D. Iliffe, OStJ

Mr M. Bamed, SBStJ

Mr W.S. Mackieson, OStJ

Mr A.W. Marshall

Mr I. Havin

Meritorious Service Certificate and Chief

Commissioner's Award for outstanding Service:

No. 3 Corps

No. 4 Corps

Communications Division

Woodend Combined Division

Traralgon Combined Division

Warburton Combined Division

Morwell Combined Division

Royal Agricultural Show:

One of Melbourne's annual attractions is the staging of the Royal Agricultural Show at Ascot Vale in September. Country and town people rub shoulders as they look with pride upon magnificently bred animals and the best results produced by rural workers in all spheres of farming. The Show presents families with a wonderful outing and, over a period of ten days, thousands of people keep the turnstiles clicking as they enter the grounds.

Ambulance and Nursing members of the Brigade are responsible for the care of anyone sick or injured and, under the supervision of District Officer Jack Hulls and District Officer Margaret Switzer, the teams (chosen and rostered some weeks previously) swing into action when the Royal Agricultural Show opens.

From a dirty, empty, very cold room allotted for their use several years ago by the organisers of the Show, thanks to the efforts of District Officer Jack Hulls, his late wife District Officer Gwladys Hulls, and District Officer Margaret Switzer, the Brigade now has a First Aid Room of which it can be justly proud. It is bright and clean, having been

thoroughly scrubbed and painted; curtains, which were donated, have been utilised to make partitions so that patients may be given some privacy, while Corps staff made available tables, stools and a desk, and were responsible for the sign outside the building. A small area has been allocated for the use of Brigade personnel as they report in and fulfil this duty.

The First Aid Room is self-sufficient in that it is fully equipped and able to cope with all types of casualties. It has three or four beds and also boasts the luxury of a few wheel chairs to make the movement of patients easier and more comfortable.

Working in pairs Brigade men patrol the grounds, giving aid to any minor casualties they come across and referring or transporting more serious cases to the First Aid Room. The services of a Doctor on duty at the Showgrounds Ambulance Room, not far distant from the St John Ambulance First Aid Room, are available for serious cases and those requiring hospitalisation.

The ten-day period of early mornings and late nights represents a busy time for St John as

members give service not only to the visiting public, but also to competitors in arena displays and events, and employees at Showground facilities. Many cases of serious burns have been dealt with as a result of accidents in catering units and a variety of injuries have been treated following the malfunction of equipment at amusement areas, or from accidents generally.

Since "DO NOT TOUCH" signs were erected in the enclosures of animals, there has been a reduction in the number of casualties suffering from the bites of horses and dogs. Even after all the years the Royal Show has been operating, the general public is very ignorant, or complacent, about the need for sensible footwear. The extensive area to be traversed is in itself a deterrent to the wearing of unsuitable shoes, but the blistered, cut and sore feet, often with splinters in them, are regularly produced for treatment.

Members of the Brigade need to be well informed regarding the Showgrounds complex and its organisation. They are always expected to be able

to direct people to the Police, Toilet, Railway Station, and to special exhibitions on display, as well as to help and advise re lost children or lost property. Seldom is life uninteresting at a "Show" duty! On the contrary, it is a duty which enables members to gain experience of all types of casualties, at the same time permitting them to enjoy facilities which have been so extensively improved over the years. Many country members of the Brigade make this an opportunity to again meet Metropolitan Officers and members who have been visitors to their Divisions, and are able to bring themselves up-to-date on the latest Brigade developments in the friendly social atmosphere which exists at this duty.

The pleasure of being a part of the Royal Agricultural Show facilities has been enhanced by the goodwill that exists between the Royal Show Management Office and the Brigade. The co-operation so readily given, is essential if both organisations are to produce the highest standard of service possible for the community.

Moomba

The aboriginal word "Moomba" translates literally into "Let's get together and have fun", and this is what the Melbourne Moomba Festival is all about.

Extending over a period of approximately ten days and commencing usually at the end of February each year, the Moomba Festival Committee transforms the city into a place of gaiety and entertainment, catering for the tastes of all - young and old - artistically and pleasurably.

Streets are decorated with bunting and symbols of Moomba, public transport systems are topped with flags, and city business proprietors usually back the Festival with appropriate window and store displays. Staid Melbourne certainly sheds years as Moomba takes over.

There are performances of popular, symphonic, jazz or rock music by Australian and international artistes, and hundreds of paintings, photographs, or sculpture may be viewed as they are displayed at the Herald Art Show in the Fitzroy Gardens. All these activities attract huge crowds.

Moomba is a family fun time and the banks of the Yarra River are usually crowded with onlookers as local and overseas champions compete in water-skiing events such as the slalom, tricks, and water jump. Much amusement and interest is derived from the Birdmen who leap from a platform close to the Swan Street Bridge in or on home-made flying machines in an effort to be the first to fly 50 metres without touching the water. A prize of \$10,000 is motivation for competitors to enter this time-consuming, demanding and often risky event.

It does, however, create a lot of fun for both competitors and viewers.

As may be expected with such a mammoth undertaking, the authorities must provide for emergencies which occur and here the Brigade, with its efficient and comprehensive planning, accepts responsibility. Casualties vary but, whether someone has suffered a Cardiac condition, been injured as a result of a sideshow malfunction or for any other reason, or is merely suffering a headache or queasiness from eating too much, the attention and care given by St John members is of the highest standard.

The Festival activities peak, and terminate, on the gazetted Labour day holiday in March when thousands of people line Swanston Street to enjoy the Moomba Parade of decorated floats, marching groups, cyclists, the antics of clowns, tall stilt men and many other interesting and/or fun entries. The Parade is held in the morning and starts at the top of town in the region of Queensberry Street, finishing in the Alexandra Gardens where the floats are so arranged to provide closer inspection by interested members of the public.

Perhaps the worst feature of the Parade is when the huge, famous Chinese Dragon commences its journey thus signifying the end of the procession. Barricades then no longer restrain movement and the crowd, now following the Parade, swells as people join in from various sections of the route.

This great tide of humanity sweeps down Swanston Street, across Princes Bridge and into the Gardens. This is no place for the faint-hearted and many casualties occur during this time.

The Brigade organisation for this annual event is very thorough. First Aid Posts, invariably utilising well-equipped Mobile First Aid Units, are established at intervals, behind the spectators, on each side of the route, and are staffed by Nursing Personnel. Ambulance members, accompanied by Cadets, are stationed inside the barriers and patrol allotted areas, ever alert for casualties.

In the Alexandra Gardens the Moomba officials provide a First Aid Treatment Area, which comprises a portable structure with flooring, used for the treatment of serious cases, with a tented annexe where those with minor ailments are given care. The efficiency of this treatment section is but a reflection of the capable organisation of Sister Barbara Davis who is responsible for its smooth operation.

A Victoria Police complex is now set up adjacent to the St John First Aid Treatment Area in the Gardens and members of both organisations are able to liaise with each other when problems arise. This arrangement is invaluable when the parents of lost, distressed children have to be located, a task which members of the Police Force handle very efficiently.

Superun

Those responsible for promoting the cause of Sports and Recreation must feel elated with the public response to Superuns, events which are sponsored by groups such as "Big M" (Milk Manufacturers) and the "Sun-Adidas" combination.

The day of the Sun-Adidas Superun on Sunday, 10th November, 1985 turned out to be very hot with a heavy thundery atmosphere, but this didn't deter

the contestants who came in their thousands to tackle the 16km route from the World Trade Centre in Flinders Street, Melbourne, to the Showgrounds at Ascot Vale, traversing the West Gate Bridge to arrive there.

Age was no bar to entering the Superun and old and young alike, with plenty of "in-betweeners" gathered at the starting point. They looked ready

for business in their running gear as they waited to find out if those early morning training runs had really been worth the loss of sleep.

At intervals along the entire route of the Superun St John Ambulance First Aid Posts were set up, manned by some 70 Brigade members. The weather being so hot, they were kept extremely busy treating the many casualties who suffered from heat exhaustion, dehydration, blistered feet, aching muscles, cramp and other ailments. As clothing rubbing on sweating skin causes a great

deal of chafing, the jar of vaseline is in great demand from runners. They then search for a place, away from the public view, to apply the vaseline and ease their pain. This is a very personal private operation with which not even Brigade members are allowed to assist.

The Superun ends, the First Aid Posts close, a winner is declared and, despite the agonies which many contestants have endured, they vow to be back again next year.

Letter of appreciation from Archbishop Little



St Patrick's Cathedral,
Melbourne, Vic, 3002

2nd December, 1986.

Sir Benjamin Rank, C.M.G.,
President,
St. John Council for Victoria,
29 Royal Parade,
PARKVILLE, Vic.

Dear Sir Benjamin,

The Members of St. John did us proud. The demands and expectations made of them during the visit of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, to Victoria were great. The responsibility assumed cannot be taken lightly.

Throughout the visit, there was always a sense of confidence in knowing that the Members of St. John were close by to provide that special attention and care which is their hallmark.

To you, and to all associated with the service you offer people, I express my warm gratitude and deep appreciation.

With cordial greetings and best wishes,

I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

Annual Parade and Inspection

At the invitation of His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, the magnificent garden setting of Government House grounds has been the venue for the Annual Parade and Inspection of Brigade members which represents one of the highlights of the Brigade Calendar.

This means that, in addition to fulfilling his duties as Deputy Prior of the Order in Victoria, the Governor is also host to the Brigade for this occasion. At the conclusion of the Parade, hospitality is freely dispensed at Government House and, in an informal atmosphere, many St John members are able to meet and converse with His Excellency - an honour greatly appreciated.

It is a time when everyone makes an effort to look their best. Uniforms are beautifully laundered, boots, shoes, belts etc are polished and brushed to a brilliant sheen, gloves are dazzling with their whiteness.

So that all may hear the speeches of welcome and thanks and announcements preceding the presentation of Awards, the Communications Division of the Brigade ensures that an efficient Public Address System is set up and in perfect working order prior to the commencement of the Parade. This has vastly improved the standard of the proceedings and gives pleasure to all.

An official Brigade photographer is also present to permanently record this important occasion.

Other than members who are on duty at public functions and those with legitimate reasons for being absent, all members of the Brigade, senior

and junior are expected to attend the Annual Parade and Inspection.

It is a big day, impressive and exciting, and many country districts charter buses to bring their members to Melbourne. Long distances of travel make an early start essential and the regular routine of many households would no doubt be upset and in chaos on this particular day.

Led by the Victoria Police Band with "Gendarme" the Drum horse well in evidence, or by a Band supplied by one of the Defence Services, adult and cadet members of the Brigade proudly march from Linlithgow Avenue to Government House Grounds. Supervised for many years by District Sergeant-Major Trevor Macfarlane and now by District Officer Alex Donald, they form a hollow square, the official dais, backed by seated invited guests, completing the square.

The Governor and his party are escorted from Government House by the District Commissioner and his wife and, on the Governor taking his position on the dais, the National Anthem is played by the Band. Following speeches, the formality of the Parade continues as His Excellency, the Governor of Victoria, inspects District Staff, Ambulance members and Ambulance Cadets, while his wife inspects Nursing members and Nursing Cadets.

Naturally, those on parade spend a considerable time standing and, particularly if the weather is hot, as it invariably is during late November it is sometimes necessary to render a little First Aid. This contingency is covered by the provision of a

First Aid Unit parked nearby but out of sight, where those requiring treatment are given expert care.

Service Medals and Bars, Grand Prior Cadet Badges and, on special occasions, awards for outstanding service are presented by the Deputy Prior, His Excellency, the Governor of Victoria, to recipients.

A most impressive ceremony, that of "Trooping the Colour", adds to the dignity of the Parade as, perfectly executing a slow march, a well-trained Colour Party, proudly bearing the Banner of our Order, traverses the entire parade ground. This is no mean feat as the lawns of Government House represent the parade ground and slow marching over grass must present many difficulties.

As the Colour Party passes, all Officers salute and Banners of Corps and Divisions are dipped in respect. When passing the Saluting Base, the Colour Party acknowledges the Deputy Prior by dipping its Colour. The solemnity of recognising the Colour and the grandeur of the occasion stimulate pride in being a part of the Order of St John and, hopefully, increases determination to be worthy of that part, be it ever so small.

The Parade concludes with a March Past of all members, the Governor taking the salute.

It was at the 1987 Annual Parade and Inspection that the ceremonial "Trooping the Colour" was even more impressive.

A beautifully made black Colour Belt, edged with silver thread, bearing an embroidered emblem of the Order and the words "St John Ambulance Australia Victoria District" was paraded for the

first time. This lovely belt was by P Blashki & Sons Pty. Ltd. of 113 Swanston Street, Melbourne, and presented by them to the Brigade as a bequest from a person known to them who had recently died and who wished to remain anonymous.

Over a long period of years the weather has been sunny and pleasant for most Annual Parades although, occasionally, not only has it been wet, but the rain has teemed down.

It was on such a day that Her Royal Highness, The Princess Margaret, Commandant-in-Chief of Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, being in Melbourne at the time, was to officiate at the Annual Parade and Inspection of the Brigade. The Parade was larger than usual, especially in the Cadet Section. No one wanted to miss seeing Princess Margaret.

While clouds gathered threateningly overhead, members of the Brigade marched to Government House from their assembly point. As the marchers approached their destination, however, down came the rain. It was impossible to conduct the Parade outside, so arrangements were hurriedly made for it to take place in the Ballroom.

It was most disappointing for members to find themselves wet through and looking rather bedraggled when they had gone to so much trouble to present a smart appearance. The white uniforms of Nursing members and Nursing Cadets which had started out without a crease, now hung limply as the starch disappeared from dresses.

Despite such devastation, the Parade progressed without too many hitches as Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret, charmingly carried out her duties. It was, indeed, a day to remember.

Colour Party

Having mentioned the excellent work of the Colour Party, it seems appropriate to name as many

members as possible who have been associated with this activity since the Banner was received in

1967 for they, under the expert tuition of District Sergeant-Major Trevor Macfarlane, have devoted many hours of practice in order to achieve the perfection of faultless displays.

No doubt some names will be overlooked but, as far as can be ascertained, the following members have, at some time, taken part in "trooping the colour".

Ambulance Members

Don White	Alan Marshall
Max Penaluna	Alec Medancic
Tom Oldham	Richard Percks
Vic Joyce	Neil West
Bruce Caslake	Michael Tyquin
Trevor Greay	Charles Bamford
Brian Priest	Michael Kerr
Andrew Johnson	Bruce Kidney
Geoff Lacey	Lou Perez
Alex Donald	

Nursing Members

Joyce Robinson	Patricia Penduck
Coral Pye	Julie Gow
Judy Mackieson	Julia Penaluna
Sue Penaluna	Debbie Penaluna

Our thanks go to them for the quality of their work. May it continue to serve as a reminder of our responsibilities and be an inspiration for greater achievements.

It seems that even a simple Colour Party drill practice is not without excitement and notoriety. A special training session set up by District Sergeant-Major Trevor Macfarlane in the Domain Gardens, Melbourne, proved to be just such an occasion.

The drill procedures attracted the attention of a few members of the public, one of whom must have been a very civic-minded person. Thinking that a 'subversive movement' was involved and that members were being trained for some questionable purpose, the police were called and asked to

investigate. Imagine Trevor's surprise and embarrassment when a police officer asked for a "please explain", also that "let-down" for the conscientious citizen when the activity was found merely to be a St John Ambulance Colour Party drill practice.

While appreciating the fact that a number of Brigade personnel have been associated with the Colour Party for many years, special mention is made of the contribution of the Penaluna family to this Parade ceremonial.

Max and Julia Penaluna of the Broadmeadows St John Ambulance Division enjoyed seeing six of their seven children attracted to and actively engaged in the work of the Order of St John. It must have been very rewarding when daughters Lynette and Susanne and later, daughter-in-law Deborah, became interested in Trooping the Colour training - an activity close to the hearts of Max and Julia who, over a period of many years, had been members of the St John Colour Party.

Attendance at training sessions for this exacting drill was fitted in to busy St John and family lives without demur. It is noted that, from 1973 to 1988, at least one member of the Penaluna family paraded in the Colour Party at the Annual Inspection of the Brigade at Government House or at the Annual Church Parade. During their years of service, Max and Julia participated as members of the Colour Party at special parades arranged for visiting Royalty, the Centenary of the Order of St John in Victoria and, on his retirement, the Chief Commissioner's Parade.

As a Nursing Cadet in 1979, Lynn attended Colour Party training regularly and, in the absence of the Cadet from the Uncasing/Casing team, was able to take over that role - the only female Cadet to do so.

There is little doubt that the Penaluna family has a fine record of exemplary St John service. May their dedication to the Order and its work prove an incentive to others, thereby ensuring that the high standards achieved will never be lost.

Investitures

Service in the interests of the Order of St John is service willingly and gratuitously given. No reward is sought or expected but a feeling of pride and satisfaction is generated when, in recognition of prolonged and outstanding efforts on behalf of the Order, the Association, or the Brigade, admission to or promotion in the Order eventuates. This is a great honour and one not given or treated lightly.

Personal details and general information relevant to recommended persons must be provided by the section of the organisation concerned so that senior members, at all levels, may duly consider and either approve, or disapprove the submissions.

If approved, the recommendations are forwarded to Priory-Headquarters of the Order in Australia, located in Canberra - and, if accepted, they are then despatched to Chapter-General, the governing body of the Order of St John, with Headquarters at St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, England.

Subject to approval by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Sovereign Head of the Order, conveyed via the Grand Prior, presently His Royal Highness, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and thence by the Chapter-General, Grand Priory, the reverse procedure applies. Eventually, surprised and delighted recipients are notified of the honour bestowed upon them and they then await advice of an Investiture, when insignia of the award will be received.

As representative of the Sovereign Head of the Order, the Governor-General of Australia undertakes the responsibilities of Prior, or Responsible Head of the Priory, while the Governors of the each State act as Deputy Priors in their own areas.

One of the duties incumbent upon a Deputy Prior is to officiate at Investitures of members being admitted to or promoted in the Order.

In Victoria, this impressive formal ceremony is usually conducted in the stately Ballroom of Government House in which seating is arranged for the recipients and their guests. On the dais, the Vice-Regal chairs, upholstered in blue velvet one with the letters ERII embroidered in gold on it, await occupation by the Governor and his Lady.

A little of the pageantry of centuries adds dignity to the occasion as guests rise and the Official Party enters in procession as follows:-

Aide-de-Camp

The Cross of the Order

Officiating Chaplain

Knights and Dames (in Pairs)

Commissioner, St John Ambulance Brigade

Chairman, St John Ambulance Association

Chairman, St John Council

President, St John Council

Priory Executive Officer

Chancellor

The Sword

Governor's wife

His Excellency, the Governor

Mantles and insignia of office are worn on this occasion.

After the Priory Executive Officer has presented the Postulants to His Excellency and they, in turn, have promised obedience to the Governing Authorities of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem as laid down in our Royal Charter in all things consistent with their duty to their Sovereign and country; to contribute to the dignity, prosperity and utility of the Order, combating everything prejudicial to its well-being, and devoting themselves to the objects and

purposes of the Order, more especially the Christian care of the sick and injured, and to conduct themselves always as men and women of honour, His Excellency, the Deputy Prior, addresses them saying:-

“By the powers invested in me, I am about to invest you severally with the insignia of your grades. Remember that the cross you will receive is the sign of man’s redemption, that its arms symbolise the four cardinal virtues, Prudence, Temperance, Justice and Fortitude, and its points stand for the eight Beatitudes which spring from the practice of those virtues. May its whiteness ever remind you of the purity of life required of those who fight for the defence of the Christian Faith, and live for the service of the poor and suffering. Be loyal to your

Sovereign, true to your honour, and faithful to the Order.”

Citations are read aloud for all to hear and recipients move forward for Investiture as their names are called. When all recipients have been Invested, the Chaplain closes proceedings with prayers. The Official Party then retires to the State Drawing Room, preceded by the Aide-de-Camp and Sword Bearer, the Cross Bearer and Chaplain bringing up the rear.

Refreshments are served either in the State Drawing Room or on the Government House lawn by members of the staff. The Governor and his Lady mix freely with recipients and guests as they host a very happy and memorable occasion.

Tax Avoidance Scheme:

The history of the Order of St John as recorded since 1099 is fraught with turbulence, successes and losses. Those responsible for its existence were no strangers to the making of “on-the-spot” decisions, nor did they expect such decisions to always be right. Perhaps strategic failures ensured that leaders would acknowledge human frailty, morally as well as physically, as immediately following disastrous defeats, they accepted their shortcomings and miscalculations and set about rebuilding their organisation. The lost respect of the western world was regained by resumption of the task they did so well, that of serving and protecting others.

With this in mind we come to the twentieth century and a most unfortunate incident promoted by the Victorian section of the Order of St John which brought disrepute, not only to Victoria, but to the Order throughout Australia. This was the involvement by Victoria in what was eventually ruled by the Full Bench of the Federal Court to be a tax avoidance scheme.

When the Full Bench of the Federal Court rejected an appeal by Brian Arthur Leary against a decision by the West Australian Supreme Court in favour of the Commissioner of Taxation, the following was cited in “The Financial Australian” newspaper on 3rd October, 1980:-

... “Leary appealed to the Court on the grounds that a \$10,000 donation by him to the Order of St John was a “gift” and tax deductible.

On the 29th June 1977 Leary entered into a “Charity Plan” scheme with Metropolitan Taxation Service Pty Ltd – a scheme recommended to him by his tax agent who referred him to solicitors for advice on the legalities.

This scheme had been published by Metropolitan Taxation Service Pty Ltd some time before the 30th June 1977 under the “Charity Plan”.

Earlier, on the 20th June 1977, Metropolitan Taxation Service Pty Ltd reached an agreement

with the Order of St John, a public benevolent institution, to procure not less than \$100,000 in donations.

The terms of the agreement were that only 1.2% of funds provided by donors through Metropolitan Taxation Service Pty Ltd was to be given to the Order.

It was envisaged that the donors would be able to claim allowable deductions for tax in respect of \$8.3 million which, at the lowest general rate of tax would mean that close to \$3 million in taxation relief would be obtained by donors and presumably would have to be made good by the general body of taxpayers.

Under the plan a taxpayer was to donate a chosen sum to a particular charity, having borrowed 85% of that sum from a money lending company associated with Metropolitan Taxation Service Pty Ltd.

Under the terms of the borrowing the taxpayer could have the loan redeemed for a minimal sum provided the donation was made to a charity specified by Metropolitan Taxation Service Pty Ltd.

In this case Metropolitan Taxation Service Pty Ltd lent Leary \$8,500. Leary then paid \$10,000 to the Order, the Order paying \$9,880 to Metropolitan Taxation Service Pty Ltd., and Leary being entitled to redeem the loan for \$17.

If Leary immediately redeemed the loan, the Order would effectively retain only \$120 while issuing a receipt for income tax purposes for the full \$10,000.

Metropolitan Taxation Service Pty Ltd would effectively retain \$1397 and Leary would hopefully become entitled to a tax deduction of \$10,000 for an outlay of \$1517.

All involved would benefit financially, the only financial victim being the national revenue".

The Full Bench unanimously agreed Leary's payment of \$10,000 to the charity was not "a gift" under Section 78(1)(a)(11) of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

The net effect – provided the scheme worked – was that, for an outlay of \$1,500, the taxpayer would get a tax deduction of \$10,000, the promoter would receive \$9,880 from the Order, which it passed on to the finance company, and the Order would receive \$120.

Naturally, when the press published details of this tax avoidance scheme and named the Order of St John as a participant, a wave of horror and indignation passed over the Organisation. The Chancellor, Sir George Stening, wisely arranged for an Extraordinary Chapter Meeting to be held at St John Headquarters, Canberra on the 6th December, 1980 so that members of the Order could learn the facts and express their reactions and opinions.

It was felt that the honour of the Order of St John had been badly damaged and the position it previously enjoyed in the community of service was threatened. The years of diplomacy in dealing with Government Departments and obtaining concessions – especially that from the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation for donations to the Order of amounts of \$2-00 or more to be tax deductible – were now at risk and it was a matter of great urgency for our house to be put in order.

Investigations produced the following facts:-

1. St John Holdings in Victoria was the responsible party for the involvement of the Order in this tax avoidance scheme.
2. St John Holdings made decisions and acted in this matter without referring it to the St John Council for Victoria or Priory.
3. A meeting of St John Holdings took place on Sunday, 19th June 1977 and contractual documents were exchanged on 20th June.

4. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 28th, 29th and 30th June 1977, the main participation of the scheme was under way at the Commercial Bank of Australia in Swanston Street, Melbourne.

5. On Monday, 11th July 1977 a Meeting of St John Holdings was held and the actions of the Meeting on the 19th June 1977 were retrospectively endorsed as the scheme had already been run. The matter was referred to the St John Council for Victoria.

6. On Wednesday, 7th September 1977 a Meeting of the St John Council for Victoria was held. The previous Meeting was on the 1st June 1977. The Chairman referred members of the Council to the particulars of certain negotiations which had been the subject of an article appearing in the "National Times" during August. After discussion, the following motion was passed –

'It is the opinion of this Council that the money received in this scheme should be returned, and the option of terminating the contract in twenty-four hours be exercised'.

The voting for this motion was –

For	-	6
Against	-	2
Abstention	-	4

7. A further Meeting of St John Holdings on 5th October 1977 was advised that to return the money at this stage would lay them open to action for damages. The following resolution was, therefore, passed:

'That we do not consider it would be in the best interests of the Order of St John to return the donations made through agreement with Metropolitan Taxation Service'.

The option to terminate the agreement was exercised.

8. On Friday, 3rd October 1980, a totally unexpected crisis occurred when the Order received publicity in many States regarding the dismissal of an Appeal with costs, before the Federal Court of Australia.

9. Dr. J.P.Bush, then the District Commissioner for Victoria District, advised that, whilst he was a member of St John Holdings, he was overseas at the time negotiations for the scheme took place.

The Chief Commissioner, Colonel Douglas Donald, was also in England, this being the year for celebrating the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

At the Extraordinary Priory Chapter Meeting the Chancellor put the following motion:-

1. The Chapter speaks for the Order as a whole when it says that St John would not and should not stoop to use its position as a public benefactor to enable people to evade their taxation commitments, and Chapter directs the Executive to take such action to ensure that this situation does not arise again.

2. Due to questions arising as to the sequence of events which led to the situation arising where neither the St John Council for Victoria nor the Priory was previously informed of the action to be taken, Chapter directs the St John Council for Victoria to investigate that situation and arising from that whether any action is warranted. Chapter directs the Council to report to the next Meeting of Chapter.

3. Chapter requests the Priory Executive to review the consultative process which should operate between the Priory and State Councils and the Foundations and to consider whether those processes should be strengthened by replacing those unwritten conventions, that have been broken in this case, with some expressly written rules.

Chapter requests that a report be presented to the next Chapter Meeting.

The motion was carried.

It was conceded that members of St John Holdings, Victoria did not pursue this scheme for any personal financial gain and that the motivation was essentially to obtain funds for a new headquarters building. This need totally outweighed all other considerations and, having been assured that the scheme was legal, the warnings of moral, ethical and political situations contained in these memoranda of advice were either ignored or misunderstood.

It is difficult to comprehend, in retrospect, how senior members of the Order were misguided and misinformed that this project was legal. The desire to retrieve the Order in Victoria from a disastrous

financial situation was responsible for the clouding of vision in which principles, legality and expedience became inextricably interwoven.

This episode created much ill-feeling, resulted in the resignation of two senior members of the Order and caused a great deal of heartache. Once again the strength of the Order was demonstrated as, despite these events, it has survived.

Maybe, like so many other decisions throughout the history of the Order, this one should be considered an error of judgement. Steps have been taken to ensure that this will not happen again and as in the past, the closing of ranks and all-out efforts of members of the Order, together with the steady, dedicated work of every section of the Organisation have relegated this occurrence to the background and the respect of the Government and the community generally has been regained.

“Play It Safe - Prevention is the best First Aid”

Growing concern at the increasing number of accidents which occurred on the road, in homes, or at holiday resorts, resulted in 1978, in a “Play It Safe” campaign co-ordinated by the St John Ambulance and supported by the State Government and “The Sun” newspaper.

The objectives of this total holiday safety campaign were practical and basic, being:-

1. To reduce the number of accidents - on the road, in the water, at home, and in holiday recreation activities.
2. To raise the level of safety consciousness in holiday recreation activities.
3. To make the public aware of first aid treatment for common holiday injuries.
4. To promote the learning of first aid.

It was hoped that all organisations with a first aid, emergency service, or safety interest, as well as those related to special recreational activities and community service groups, would elect to become involved in the campaign. The subject matter was to be translated into major migrant languages for use via Ethnic Press.

The campaign was envisaged as covering a wide range of activities which would be co-ordinated to give each maximum coverage, emphasis always being on the common theme.

A series of newspaper articles were to be published in “The Sun” newspaper during the months of November and December, each containing a preventative safety hint or interest story and a related First Aid summary. A four-page lift-out supplement featuring “safety checklists” for a variety of activities would also be published at a suitable stage of the campaign.

The solid base of the campaign established by the newspaper articles would be supported by displays and demonstrations at major shopping centres and other public places by members of the various organisations. Each organisation would be entitled to take advantage of the opportunity to publicise its own skills and benefits.

Radio and television spots would support and illustrate the campaign and posters, pamphlets, T-shirts, car stickers and other advertising matter would be available.

Under the guidance of Dr J.P. Bush, Commissioner for the Brigade in Victoria, District Officer Mr Richard Bluck, Co-ordinator of the campaign, and members of the Steering Committee, Staff Officer (Cadets) Mr Norm Jackson and Staff Officer (Cadets) Mr Alan Fry, St John arrangements were finalised. Adult and Cadet members of the Brigade enthusiastically backed the programme and were prepared to do their utmost to ensure the success of their part of the "Play It Safe" campaign.

The response by organisations to the invitation to participate in the campaign was overwhelming and indicated that the need for increased public awareness was fully appreciated in many areas and considered long overdue. Organisations which joined in the campaign included the Victoria Police, Fire Brigade (Metropolitan and Country), Red Cross, Scouts, Guides, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Monash University, ROSTA, Royal Life Saving Society, Royal Automobile Club of Victoria, Ambulance Service Melbourne, Bushwalking Federation, Orienteering, Royal Children's Hospital, National Safety Council, State Electricity Commission, Coast Guard, Water Police, Canoe Association and the State Rivers & Water Supply. An impressive, spontaneous response spanning almost every avenue and activity of normal life.

On Wednesday, 22nd November, 1978, the Premier of Victoria, The Honourable R.J.Hamer, ED, MP, officially launched the campaign in the Bourke Street Mall where members of participating

organisations, ethnic groups and pretty girls distributed balloons, car stickers and other useful material. Many safety vehicles were on display and demonstrations were given in rescue and first aid procedures.

Members of the Brigade arranged displays at many shopping centres and Municipal Libraries and made themselves available to answer enquiries from the public. Demonstrations of cardiac-pulmonary resuscitation and the first aid treatment of injuries frequently encountered were given to large crowds of interested spectators at many venues.

It was gratifying that the media generously supported the campaign, features being regularly published in "The Sun" newspaper, while the "The New Idea" magazine printed an eight-page feature. Articles appeared in the "SEC News", St John "White Cross", house journals for Scouts, Guides, Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC) and in the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) Newsletter. Ethnic Press translated the "Play It Safe" checklist into seven main languages.

"Channel 0" and "Channel 2" television stations programmed films identified with the campaign and all Channels were issued with "Play It Safe" slides for backdrops and "fillers", together with press kits.

The fact that the Broadcasting Control Board sanctioned the use of "Play It Safe" in community time was greatly appreciated. All the radio stations, including 3EA for ethnic programmes, made time available for "Play It Safe" announcements.

The campaign was not restricted to the metropolitan area as strong support was supplied by the districts of Bendigo, Geelong and Lara, and Colac, while the Library Council of Victoria co-ordinated displays of "Play It Safe" material in Municipal Libraries throughout the State. Thus

every effort was made to enable the 'safety' message to reach as many Victorians as possible.

At Bendigo, the campaign was officially launched by the Mayor and car-racing driver, Peter Brock, and was strongly supported by 22 organisations. Excellent school and public response resulted, this being maintained by good media coverage.

Although many companies sponsored special activities, the problem of financing such a public campaign was alleviated by donations from companies such as Repco, General Motors Holden, National Bank, Shell Oil, Coles, Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd., Gas & Fuel Corporation, A.R.C., A.N.Z. Bank and H.C. Sleigh. Several other companies gave anonymous donations.

In promoting and co-ordinating the "Play it Safe" campaign, St John Ambulance members were extremely grateful for this practical demonstration of confidence in their work and in the success of this venture.

The "Play It Safe" campaign was repeated during the summer holiday period for several years and, hopefully, many accidents have been avoided and lives saved as a result of its impact on the public.

Unfortunately, this initiative was not adopted enthusiastically by all St John and, after a few years, the momentum ceased and the project lapsed.

Visitors

Although geographically Australia is far from England, Grand Priory has always shown great interest in and kept a close watch on the proceedings and activities of the Order of St John as it developed in this country.

Despite the physical demands of travel involving vast distances and climatic variations, plus itineraries which of necessity had to be comprehensive, many holders of important positions in Grand Priory have visited Australia to assess for themselves the problems, progress and future of the Order here. This has been an ongoing activity as is evidenced hereunder:-

March 1936: Colonel J.L. Sleeman, CB, CMG, CBE, MVO, MA

**Knight of Justice of The Order of St John,
Chief Commissioner of the St John Ambulance
Brigade Overseas**

(Refer Chapter on Cadets for details of this visit.)

An Official Welcome to Colonel Sleeman took place at the Melbourne Town Hall on Tuesday, 31st March, 1936 in the presence of a large gathering of St John members and other interested community welfare workers. Long Service Medals and Bars were presented and a display of First Aid was given by members of the Caulfield Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade. (A copy of the Programme is reproduced in the Illustrations).

March 1946: The Lady Louis Mountbatten, DCVO, CBE.

**Superintendent-In-Chief of the Nursing Divisions
of the St John Ambulance Brigade.**

Lady Louis Mountbatten wished to personally meet as many St John personnel as possible and arrangements were made accordingly. Members of the Honorary Instructors' Association were not overlooked and met Lady Louis at a social function.

9th April 1956: The Countess Mountbatten of Burma,

Superintendent-In-Chief of the Nursing Divisions of the St John Ambulance Brigade

A special Parade was arranged at which Lady Louis Mountbatten not only inspected Brigade members, presented Service Medals, addressed the Parade, and took the Salute for the March Past, but spoke individually to each member present.

The charm, vitality and genuine interest of this remarkable lady made a great impact on those who came in contact with her and left a never-to-be-forgotten memory with them.

12th February 1955: Sir Otto Lund, KCB, DSO, KStJ.

Commissioner-In-Chief St John Ambulance Brigade

In his capacity as Commissioner-in-Chief of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Sir Otto Lund undertook a Commonwealth Tour involving 30,000 miles of travel in order to visit Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, Singapore, Hong Kong and Canada, to see for himself the work of the Brigade in these countries.

While in Victoria a special Parade was organised in the lovely grounds of Government House, Melbourne, and Brigade members were inspected by the Governor, General Sir Dallas Brooks, the Commissioner-in-Chief, Sir Otto Lund, and the Chief Commissioner for Australia, Major-General Sir Samuel Burston.

February/March 1966: The Lord Wakehurst, KG, KCMG, GCSJ

The Lord Prior of The Order and Lady Wakehurst

On the 22nd February 1966, during the time at his disposal, Lord Wakehurst visited the Douglas Donald Training Centre at Yarra Junction where he unveiled a commemorative plaque.

4/5 March 1967: Rear-Admiral Royer Dick, CB, CBE, DSC, KStJ.

Commissioner-In-Chief St John Ambulance Brigade

On Saturday, 4th March 1967, a day that brought perfect weather, members of the Brigade attended a Parade in the grounds of Government House, Melbourne.

Rear-Admiral Royer Dick had expressed a desire to meet and speak to as many members of the Brigade as possible and, on this occasion, he was given every opportunity to do so. As the youthful members of the Brigade represented its future, the Commissioner-in-Chief especially concentrated on the Cadet Section of the Parade.

Those taking part, and the invited guests, were then given the pleasure of observing a Ceremonial "Piling of Drums", meticulously performed by the St Albans Division Cadet Drum Corps of which W.Knowles was Superintendent and Trevor Kerr, Drum Major.

The Colour, provided by Colonel Douglas Donald, Chief Surgeon, was "uncased" and laid on the Drum Pile, following which Victoria's District Commissioner, Lieutenant-Colonel G.Newman-Morris, addressed the Parade and asked His Grace Dr.Frank Woods, Archbishop of Melbourne and Chaplain of the Order to Dedicate and Consecrate the Colour.

The Commissioner-in Chief, Rear-Admiral Royer Dick, then received the Colour from the Pile and handed it to the Colour Party. "General Salute" followed, the Colour being "Slow Marched" to its place in line while the National Anthem was played.

The Cadet Drum Corps ceremoniously retrieved their drums and then, with precision drill and slow marching, the Colour was "Trooped" by the Colour Party.

The Commissioner-in-Chief was very impressed with the ceremonial so excellently carried out and, after addressing all present, "Reviewed the Parade"



The Grand Priory in the British Realm
of the
Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem
AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT
The St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas
VICTORIA DISTRICT

PROGRAMME

*Of proceedings in connection with the Welcome to Col. J. L. Sleeman,
C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., M.V.O., M.A., J.P., Knight of Justice of the
Order of St. John, Chief Commissioner, S.J.A.B.O., at the MELBOURNE
TOWN HALL, TUESDAY, 31st MARCH, 1936.*

ARRIVAL OF COLONEL SLEEMAN (*General Salute*)
Sounded by Cadet Bugler

BAND ITEM—Overture Raymonde - - - (Thomas)

ADDRESS OF WELCOME by Major-General R. M. Downes
C.M.G., V.D. (*Commissioner Victoria District*)

CORNET SOLO—"Weber's Last Waltz" - - Soloist, R. Bourne

ADDRESS BY COLONEL SLEEMAN
Subject: "The Order of St. John Overseas"

BAND ITEM—Slavonic Rhapsody - - - (Friedman)

PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND BARS TO:—

Medals:

S/Sgt. Lyon, Metropolitan Division Pte. J. Morse, Footscray Division
Pte. R. Parker, Footscray " Cpl. W. Warrenner " "

Bars: Div. Supt. W. Holden, Metropolitan Division
Sgt. J. Tierney, Footscray Division

Followed by First Aid Display by Members of Caulfield Division, S.J.A.B.

ADDRESS by A. H. HANSFORD, Esq., M.A., LL.B.
(*Knight of Grace of the Order*)

DEPARTURE OF COLONEL SLEEMAN

— GOD SAVE THE KING —

Musical Programme by courtesy of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Band



Sir James Sleeman, Commissioner-in-Chief of the Brigade Overseas, visited Australia in 1936



Divisional Superintendent Ernest Pippard meets HRH Princess Margaret



Lady Mountbatten inspecting members on parade



Cadets Linda Perkins and Ross Barkla dressed as members of the Order during the 'Play-it-Safe' Campaign

VISIT OF COMMISSIONER-IN-CHIEF, GENERAL SIR DESMOND GORDON



General Gordon meets Marong Divisional Superintendent Wilfred Leversha



Wilf Leversha speaking at the luncheon for General Gordon



Nursing member Jeannie Horner meets General Gordon



Dr Peter Bush and Richard Bluck with Premier Rupert Hamer launching the 'Play-It-Safe' Campaign, 1978



C-I-C Sir James Sleeman in 1936 with Bill Fyfe and the Caulfield team and an improvised stretcher



The Victorian first Motorcycle Division in the late 1920's

in a "March Past", the Colour being marched off with respectful ceremony.

The St John Ambulance Band marched through the ranks and the Parade was dismissed, everyone being delighted with the afternoon's activities.

On Sunday, 5th March 1967, in the presence of a large crowd assembled at the Douglas Donald Training Centre, Yarra Junction, the Commissioner-in-Chief unveiled a Cairn, which was draped with a Brigade flag, to commemorate the Official Opening of the Centre. The Cairn, approximately six feet high, standing in an octagon of crushed red stone, surrounded by newly sown green grass, was an impressive sight.

Speeches of welcome were given by the Shire President, The Commissioner, Lieut-Colonel G.Newman Morris, and the Chief Commissioner, Colonel Douglas Donald. The Commissioner-in-Chief replied and paid great tribute to those responsible for the work carried out at the site, following which His Grace, The Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr.F.Woods, dedicated the Lectern of the Open Air Chapel.

Moving out to the Parade Ground, cleared of trees and shrubs and on which three Flag Poles were erected, Rear-Admiral Royer Dick inspected Rescue Teams and an impressive display of their equipment.

There was little doubt that the Commissioner-in-Chief was both pleased and impressed with the work of the Brigade in Victoria and the direction in which its activities were headed.

1969 Marjorie, Countess of Brecknock
Superintendent-In-Chief

In a letter dated the 5th March, 1969 addressed to the Commissioner, St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District, the Countess of Brecknock expressed appreciation of the service being supplied to the community by St John personnel

and of the high esteem in which the organisation was held.

The Rescue Teams, their equipment and the skills developed in its use particularly impressed the Countess. She was also pleased that the Nursing Section had not been overlooked as she was quite sure they would also do excellent work.

The Countess of Brecknock asked that thanks be conveyed to Lady Newman-Morris for the time she devoted to her welfare during her visit.

25th October 1975: Her Royal Highness The
Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, CL,
GCVO, GCStJ

Grand President of the St John Ambulance
Association and The St John Ambulance Brigade.

A highlight of the visit of Princess Margaret to Melbourne was her presence at the Annual Parade and Inspection of members of the Brigade at Government House. This occasion has been detailed in a previous chapter, so sufficient to say that, as a result of appalling weather conditions, a violent storm erupted and heavy rain poured down. The fast transfer of hundreds of members from the Parade Ground to the Ballroom of Government House was a credit to the efficiency of those in control.

Tribute is also paid to the apparent imperturbability of Princess Margaret as she calmly accepted the crowded, rather damp presentation of the Parade and co-operated well to enable arrangements to proceed smoothly.

1976: Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Payne, KStJ,
JP,
Deputy Commissioner, London District

It was indeed a pleasure to have Colonel Payne and his wife Audrey as guests in Melbourne. He was glad of the opportunity to see at close quarters the Order of St John operating in Australia, this ranging from a visit to Priory Headquarters in

Canberra, to participating in the Annual Parade and Inspection of the Brigade in Victoria.

The happy personality of Colonel Payne was evident at all times and others reacted spontaneously to it. It was no surprise, therefore, to find he was impressed by the enthusiasm of those with whom he came into contact, from Cadets to Commissioners.

He was particularly interested in the Inter-Link Scheme functioning so well in Victoria, by which it was hoped to overcome the loss of so many young people from St John when an age limit precluded them from continuing with Cadet activities.

16th January 1977: Major-General Desmond Gordon, CB, CBE, DSO, KStJ, JP, Commissioner-in-Chief St John Ambulance Brigade

When the Commissioner, Dr. Peter Bush, and District Superintendent Major Roy Green awaited the arrival of Major-General Gordon at Tullamarine Airport on Sunday, 16th January, 1977, it was with the knowledge that a very full and interesting programme had been arranged to enable him, in a short time, to gain a comprehensive knowledge of Brigade activities in Victoria.

When Major-General Gordon joined the welcoming party however, it was obvious that, as a result of an asthma attack, he was a very sick man and should be resting. Dr. Bush, being aware of the many people, at different locations in Victoria, involved in arrangements made in connection with this visit, had to wrestle with his conscience on this occasion. As a Doctor he knew he should insist on bed rest and treatment; as Commissioner, he had a duty to the many dignitaries and Brigade members involved in the arrangements to ensure they were fulfilled. The latter predominated and the visit proceeded.

The itinerary for the visit to Victoria by Major-General Gordon was as follows:-

After leaving the Airport, the party proceeded to the Broadmeadows Divisional Hall where Corps Superintendent Jack Ireland and Divisional Superintendent Alan Giblin welcomed them.

Members of the Broadmeadows Division and other Divisions within No.3 Corps were then met and inspected by General Gordon. He also met the Mayor of Broadmeadows and a number of his Councillors.

After a welcome breakfast and a pleasant, informal talking period with all present, displays of the work of the Brigade were inspected and, as a memento of his visit, Major-General Gordon was presented with a T-shirt.

The party then left for Essendon airport to board a Victoria Police Aircraft, which flew them to Bendigo. Here staff Officer J. Rowe had a car waiting to transport the party to the Marong Divisional Hall where members of the Division and from other country Divisions awaited him.

This isolated little country Division then played a masterstroke and a miracle was performed. As the Commissioner-in-Chief met and inspected the spic and span St John members, in the distance a lone Scottish piper played the bagpipes.

On hearing the music, a transformation took place. General Gordon's shoulders straightened, pleasure and pride showed on his face and, as he carried out his inspection, his asthma disappeared completely, never to return throughout his Victorian visit.

Divisional Superintendent Wilfred Leversha and members of the Marong Division provided an excellent lunch at which the Shire President of the District presented Major General Gordon with a book on Australian Wildlife, signed by all present.

While in the area, Major-General Gordon attended a Civic Reception given in his honour by the Shire President and Councillors.

Travelling again by Police Aircraft from Bendigo Airport, the party was flown to Lilydale Airport

where Corps Superintendent Bob Budgen met and escorted them to the Warburton Combined Division Hall.

Officers and members of the local Division, together with members from other Divisions in No.4 Corps, were met and inspected by Major-General Gordon. He also met local Councillors and their wives who were present and then proceeded to officially open the Division's new meeting hall. Local Clergymen assisted in the Dedication Ceremony.

Major-General Gordon informally mixed with guests, thus rounding off a memorable occasion for Divisional Superintendent Les Byers and his Brigade members.

February 1979: His Royal Highness Richard, Duke of Gloucester, GCVO.

Grand Prior of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem

During his brief visit, His Royal Highness officially opened the new Headquarters building of the Order of St John in Victoria at 285 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, and mixed informally with those present. (This event has been dealt with in a previous chapter.)

19/23rd February, 1981: Major-General P.R. Leuchars, CBE, KStJ
Chief Commander

A visit to Australia from 11th February 1981 to 2nd March 1981, allowed Major-General Leuchars to visit Canberra and all State Capitals, with the exception of Hobart, Tasmania.

While in Melbourne from the afternoon of Thursday 19th February until 9.00 a.m. Monday, 23rd February, it was possible for Major-General Leuchars to spend a day with the Director of the St John Ambulance Association, Mr.A.H.Toyne, a

day with the Association, and a day with the Brigade.

So that he could be given a true representation of the Brigade activities and standards, on Saturday, 21st February, Major-General Leuchars met Senior Officers at Headquarters and was given a briefing on the Brigade operations, structure, training, objectives and duties.

A visit to the Malvern/Waverley Cadet Division's training activity at Jell's Park, Glen Waverley - a large popular public park where many sporting events are held - was arranged and Duty Officer Colin Smith, who met the visitors at the Park entrance, conducted them on a tour of inspection. Brigade personnel on First Aid duty for the various park activities were observed as they carried out their tasks.

Visits were paid to the Victoria Police Academy, Glen Waverley, where District Officer Derek Bateman accompanied the party around the vast modern, interesting complex which caters for all the requirements of Police Cadets. Then to the Box Hill Divisional Hall where Divisional and Corps members entertained Major-General Leuchars and party at a Luncheon. Great interest was shown in the Radio Control Van which was on display.

Travelling to Mount Waverley, the Divisional Superintendent (Nursing Cadets) and Corps Officer (Nursing Cadets) joined the party which viewed a Nursing Cadet training session.

As Major-General Leuchars had expressed a wish to see Brigade members in action at a duty, a visit to the Kooyong Tennis Stadium was arranged where an international tennis match was in progress. Here he was able to see the First Aid setup and observe Brigade members treating casualties.

Obviously Major-General Leuchars enjoyed the time spent in Melbourne, as is evidenced from a letter written by him to the Commissioner, Major-General Frank Poke.

A personal highlight of the trip so far as Major-General Leuchars was concerned was a visit to Phillip Island where, for the first time, he saw the parade of fairy penguins as they returned to their habitat. He was delighted with these lovely creatures as they waddled up from the beach after their day's labour.

June 1983: Sir Maurice Dorman, GCMG, GCVO, MA.

Lord Prior of the Order of St John and Lady Dorman.

It was a privilege and an honour for Victoria that the Lord Prior and Lady Dorman arranged their tour of Australia in such a manner to enable them to be in Melbourne during June 1983 to participate in functions arranged to celebrate the centenary of the Order of St John in Australia.

Lady Dorman, being a Dame of the Order - her active association with St John and Voluntary Aid Detachments dating back to pre-World War II days - was as interested as her husband in everything taking place in connection with this historical milestone of the Order.

The interesting programme arranged for them has been dealt with in a chapter covering the centenary, every effort being made to give the Lord Prior an

insight into the progress and development of the Order in Victoria.

Sir Maurice Dorman was impressed with the postage stamp designed by Mr. Tim McCaulay, an art student from Hobart, Tasmania, commemorating the Centenary of St John. Sir Maurice was delighted when Australia Post presented him with a complete sheet of stamps and a First Day Cover specially mounted and framed to withstand changing temperatures as he returned to England.

September 1986: Major-General, The Earl Cathcart, CB, DSO, MC.

The Lord Prior of St John and Countess Cathcart

As part of an extensive tour of Australia and New Zealand provision was made for the Lord Prior to pay a brief visit to Melbourne where he and Countess Cathcart were cared for by the President of Council, Sir Benjamin Rank, the Commissioner, and Senior Officers of the Brigade.

The Lord Prior expressed great interest in the operations of the Brigade following a briefing prepared by senior members of District Staff. After the briefing, a most interesting visit to the Broadmeadows Division was undertaken.

Centenary Celebrations

1983 was a very special year for the Order of St John in Australia for, on the 26th June, it celebrated a centenary of service in this country. Had it been possible for Dr James Edward Neild, the founder of the organisation in Australia, to be present in 1983, it would have been interesting to record his reaction to the Order as it has developed today. Would he have been pleased? Satisfied? Proud? These questions occur to most of us from time to time and, generally speaking, Dr Neild's answers would probably have been in the affirmative, mixed with some astonishment at the progress made and the extent of the services rendered voluntarily to the community.

With centenary celebrations in mind, Victoria sought and was granted permission to host the Priory Chapter Meetings in 1983. As it was in the State of Victoria that Dr Neild established the

Order of St John in 1883, Victoria combined the Priory Chapter Meetings with special functions to honour the centenary.

Dr.J.Peter Bush, Chief Surgeon for the Brigade in Australia and a former Commissioner of Victoria District, started planning and organising a Brigade Conference and Oration some 18 months or so prior to June 1983. It was due to his personality, ability and drive that the programme was such a success. The task was formidable and, with limited funding, the average person would have shied away from the responsibility of presenting to Australia the Order of St John and its services, but not Dr. Bush and the Committee, which gave him such strong support.

The 'Centenary Conference Committee' was as follows:-

Dr.J.P.Bush (Chairman)		
Dr.R.Anker	Miss M.Field	Mr.G.Lacey
Dr.F.Archer	Mr.W.Foley	Miss T.McIntosh
Dr.E.Brentnall	Mr.R.Harlock	Mr.P.McMurtrie
Mr.B.Carey	Mr.M.Hines	Mrs.J.McRae
Mrs.M.Carey	Mr.B.Hume	Mrs.M.Mills
Dr.A.S.Davis	Mr.N.Jackson	Mrs.J.Patterson
Sr.B.Davis	Mr.K.Kurtz	Miss T.Peverill
		Mr.L.van der Toorren

As the date of the Conference and Priory Chapter Meetings approached, an air of excitement surrounded Victorians as they eagerly awaited the arrival of visitors from overseas, interstate, and country areas and realised the long months of planning were over.

It augured well for the centenary arrangements when Mr.Peter London, MBE, CStJ, FRCS,

MFOM, agreed to give the Oration. Mr.London trained at St Thomas's Hospital, London, and his appointments include Senior Surgeon Birmingham Accident Hospital since 1954, Senior Clinical Tutor University of Birmingham, and Surgical Tutor, Royal College of Surgeons of England. He is also an Hunterian Professor and Chairman of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and is also a member of the

medical board of St John Ambulance, as well as having many other professional appointments and interests.

The Exhibition Conference Centre, Nicholson Street, Carlton, was the venue chosen for the Brigade Conference and Oration because of its convenient situation, vast seating accommodation and other facilities. An impressive display of early Brigade uniforms, photographs, equipment and other memorabilia was arranged by Mr. Ken Kurtz at the entrance to the Conference Centre and attracted much attention.

The Conference was held on Monday and Tuesday the 20th and 21st June, 1983, its theme being "Getting Better" and many excellent lectures were given, followed by Group Discussions and Practical Workshops. Dr Frank Archer and Dr. Robyn Anker combined forces and, using the facilities of Monash University, produced instructive films of great interest. Mr. London gave the Oration on Monday evening, 20th June 1983, his subject being "First Aid and its Variations in Time, Place, and Technique" and, using a wide variety of slides, everyone was enthralled as he skilfully presented his subject.

The quality of Mr. London's ability as a public speaker was put to the test when slides he had painstakingly assembled either stuck in the projector, had a blurred appearance on the screen, or were decidedly crooked when projected. This was indeed a setback and would have completely upset the concentration of a less competent lecturer but, while experiencing frustration, a good sense of humour enabled Mr London not only to hold the attention of his audience, but to cope exceptionally well in these unusual circumstances.

After using other projectors with no obvious improvement in the quality of the pictures, the cause of the trouble was found to be dampness of the slides themselves which, in travelling from England and passing through tropical areas, had been subjected to varying temperatures. Moisture was absorbed and some condensation remained on

the film. The slides were quickly dried out, the operator heaved a sigh of relief and gave a faultless performance thereafter, and Mr London continued the Oration.

The Priory Meetings, held in the Conference Rooms at Noah's Hotel, Exhibition Street, Melbourne, occupied their customary days from Wednesday, 22nd June, to Sunday, 26th June, and visitors and St John members began arriving in Melbourne from Sunday, 19th June.

This being a 'special occasion', the number of visitors to Melbourne was greater than in former years and much planning and organisation went into arrangements for their care.

It was a great honour and pleasure to welcome The Lord Prior, Sir Maurice Dorman, GCMG, GCVO, and Lady Dorman, who visited Australia during June. They not only attended Priory Meetings but were also present at a reception given by His Excellency the Governor-General and Prior of the Order in Australia, Sir Ninian Stephen, AK, GCMG, GCVO, KBE, KStJ, at the Melbourne Town Hall. Plus the Australian First Aid and Patient Care Championships and the Priory Church Service held at St Paul's Cathedral.

In addition, time was found to visit the Box Hill/Doncaster Division on Wednesday, 22nd June, where Sir Maurice and Lady Dorman were impressed by displays put on by the Division and were very complimentary regarding the hall decorations and memorabilia shown.

The following day they visited Ballarat and, at a Luncheon at Sovereign Hill, were the guests of Mr. A. Hems, Divisional Superintendent Cadet Division and Mrs. C. P. Hems, Divisional Superintendent Nursing Cadet Division. Present were the Mayor of Ballarat, Cr. Don Woodward, Mr. Murray Byrne, CMG, and Mrs. Byrne, Dr. J. Hewat, Corps Surgeon No. 2 Region, Mrs. Hewat and Miss Janet Hewat, Dr. Paul Hemming, Divisional Surgeon Ballarat Nursing Cadets and Mrs. Hemming, Mrs. A. Wines, BEM,

Divisional Superintendent Nursing and Mr. Ray Wines, Dr. A. Davis, OStJ, District Surgeon of Victoria and Chairman of the St John Ambulance Association and Mrs. Davis. Sovereign Hill, being a reconstruction of the original Ballarat area during the gold rush era of the 1850s is a major tourist attraction in Victoria and the Luncheon arranged there for the Lord Prior and Lady Dorman will no doubt live long in their memories.

The activities involved during this very busy week ran smoothly and, while everyone responsible for a task did their job well, special thanks are due to Divisional Superintendent Max Penaluna and Corps Officer Wayne Deakes for their splendid organising of transport. All visitors were met at the airport and rail terminals and, when necessary, vehicles were made available to convey members to functions at other venues. Long hours of duty were performed cheerfully and efficiently and visitors were most appreciative of their efforts.

At 1230 hours on Friday, 24th June, 1983, led by the Victoria Police Band, Ambulance and Nursing Cadets took part in a Procession from Brigade Headquarters, 285 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne to the City Square in Swanston Street, Melbourne. A Colour Party and Escort, led by the South Australia District St John Ambulance Band, gave support to the Procession, the object of which was threefold:-

1. To draw the attention of the general public to the presence of members of the Brigade in Melbourne for Priory week.
2. To make the public aware of the Centenary Celebrations of the Order in Australia, and
3. To emphasise the role the Brigade performs in the training of youth in the community.

The Lord Mayor, at the invitation of the Chief Commissioner, addressed the Cadets from a dais erected at the City Square, following which the Brigade Colour Party "Trooped the Colour". Static displays and First Aid vehicles were on site for public inspection. Cadets gave practical

demonstrations of the application of First Aid to the injured.

Incidental music was provided by the South Australia District St John Ambulance Band following the demonstrations.

Publicity for the Order of St John continued throughout the year. Australia Post enthusiastically accepted suggestions for St John material to be displayed at various Post Offices and local Divisions of the Brigade took advantage of this opportunity to obtain public support. A commemorative postage stamp, featuring the badge of the Order of St John, was issued by Australia Post on the 8th June, 1983, and a First Day Cover was produced for the interest of philatelists

The stamp was designed by Mr. Tim McCaulay of Hobart, one of several art students invited to submit designs for the stamp. The Stamp Advisory Committee recommended his design for adoption following consideration of all designs submitted.

Mr. McCaulay's design, set against a blue-green background, is based on the badge of the Order of St John - an eight-pointed white cross bearing a lion and a unicorn alternately on its four principal angles.

Ballarat Ambulance Cadet and Nursing Cadet Divisions held a Debutante Ball to commemorate the Centenary of the Order of St John in Australia at which over 250 people from Ballarat and the surrounding area attended. The Debutantes and their partners were presented to the official party which comprised the District Commissioner, Major-General F.E. Poke and Mrs. Poke, the Mayor of Ballarat, Councillor D. Woodward and Mrs. Woodward, and the President of the Ballarat Shire, Councillor W. Flynn and Mrs. Flynn. Mr. and Mrs. A. Hems, Divisional Superintendents of the local Cadet Divisions, were hosts for the function. The lovely Debutantes and their escorts were a credit to their instructors as they graced the ballroom and were presented.

At intervals during 1983, public interest in the work of St John and its centenary of service in Australia was stimulated by demonstrations of artificial respiration and practical First Aid. These were given in the city and at large suburban shopping areas and attracted a lot of attention.

Many church services, attended by uniformed members of the Brigade, paid homage to the Order of St John.

In November 1983 a History, written by Dr.Ian Howie-Willis titled "A Century for Australia", covering the activities of the St John Ambulance in Australia 1883-1983, was launched by the Chancellor, Sir John Young, at a Reception held at St John Headquarters, Melbourne. This event seemed very satisfactorily to 'round' off observance of the centenary.

Publications

When the St John Ambulance Association was established in Victoria in 1883 and qualified medical men instructed classes in First Aid, teaching was based on publications produced in England. While the overall principles of First Aid applied everywhere, it was realised that emergencies pertaining to Australian conditions were not included. For instance, the prevalence of snakes, funnel-web and redback spiders, venomous sea creatures such as the blue ringed octopus, jellyfish, and sea wasps, together with the many poisonous fungi and plants easily found on our continent, was not recognised and incidents associated with them were not dealt with in any way whatsoever.

As time passed a great deal of dissatisfaction developed regarding the English manual and Doctors associated with classes found it irksome to have to abide by its teachings. As far back as 1924, efforts were made to have subjects important to Australians included.

It was probably very difficult for the English authorities to envisage the vast distances over which sick or injured persons had to be transported in Australia, often from almost inaccessible locations, the isolation of many homesteads in country areas, or to fully appreciate our climatic variations. The high summer temperatures experienced in Australia, combined with the popularity of beaches, highlighted the need for emphasis to be placed on the treatment of illnesses resulting from excessive exposure to the sun.

In an effort to make the book more acceptable for use in Australia, the Victoria Centre of the St John Ambulance Association submitted 70 amendments

to London in 1932, but not one was adopted. This was most discouraging and, to be so ignored, was infuriating. However, with so many requests for amendments to the manual being received from well-known and respected Australian St John leaders, many of them prominent medical practitioners, credence should have been accorded to their submissions.

There were two further reasons why the English manual was unpopular in Australia

1. Supplies were not always forthcoming and it was frustrating when textbooks were unavailable for classes.
2. There was an understanding that the St John headquarters in each State of Australia would be the sole distributors of the textbooks, but a large Melbourne book store had copies for sale, received direct from England.

A strong protest was sent to England against this practice, but it fell on deaf ears.

In 1964, by publishing a Supplement dealing with the bites and stings of venomous creatures encountered in Australia, a small show of independence was made by Priory. The Supplement created a great deal of interest when submitted to St John's Gate, England, and when the 1965 edition of the English manual was produced, a rewritten Australian Supplement accompanied it. Neither publication proved acceptable to Australia and, in 1966, at the Association Standing Committee Meeting held in Hobart, Tasmania, it was decided that all St John textbooks for use in Australia should be produced in Australia, and that an Australian edition of the First Aid manual was

to be printed for our own use. It was also agreed, meanwhile, that the 1958 English edition would be a better book to use than the 1965 manual.

Dr.A.Howard Toyne, a Melbourne Surgeon who had been associated with St John activities for a number of years, serving as a member of the St John Council for Victoria and also as a member of the St John Ambulance Association Centre Committee (of which he later became Chairman), agreed to write an Australian First Aid Manual.

Dr.Toyne applied himself wholeheartedly to his task and an Editorial Panel of Assistants appointed from each State soon received chapters of the manual for perusal. Dr.Toyne's natural drive no doubt extracted the best from the Panel and the book was ready for publication early in 1969.

The first Australian First Aid Manual was introduced to Victoria on the 20th May, 1969 at a Reception held at the "Southern Cross" Hotel, Melbourne. His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Major-General Sir Rohan Delacombe, KCMG, CB, DSO, KStJ, LLD, Deputy Prior of the Order of St John in Victoria, launched this textbook, published and printed by Australians for Australian conditions. A large gathering of people representing many community services attended the launching of the book which was titled "**FIRST AID: The Authorised Manual of the St John Ambulance Association in Australia**".

The manual proved an outstanding success and was enthusiastically received everywhere. By June 1970 the first 100,000 copies had been sold and orders for a further 10, 000 copies were held. It was a fitting tribute to the skill of Dr.Toyne and his Editorial Panel that annual impressions for thousands of copies were made until, in 1979, Dr.Toyne produced a second and updated edition. It was well presented, with excellent illustrations produced in colour and, like the first edition, was well accepted. It became an immediate success from both teaching and financial angles, and filled an obvious First Aid need for the community.

In March 1972 a new manual "**WHAT IS FIRST AID?**" compiled by Dr.A.H.Toyne was introduced. It was illustrated by the noted cartoonist "W.E.G." of the Melbourne "Herald" and was designed to create interest in First Aid, particularly by young children. The publication was distributed widely throughout the Primary School section of the Education Department and also to Independent schools.

The lifestyle of our society changed somewhat over the years, bringing new activities which challenged the physical fitness of individuals. Large-scale promotions made the public aware of the need for regular exercise and many people applied themselves enthusiastically to new pastimes - often with dire results as muscles, unused to energetic exercise, were frequently abused.

As may be gathered from the following, every aspect of life was affected:-

General: Physical fitness was lacking, so exercises (often too strenuous), athletics, aerobics, and jogging were undertaken.

Sport: Many sports gained popularity, eg Hang Gliding, Sailboard Riding, Scuba Diving, Water Skiing, Surfing etc., while Marathon Runs attracted thousands of people.

Entertainment: Pop Concerts and Pop Festivals resulted in mass hysteria and other associated complaints, while at Discotheques, bodies gyrated and moved in most alarming ways.

Social: Over-indulgence with alcohol, and easy access to and the use of drugs of addiction, brought their problems.

Employment: Recognition was given to repetitive job injuries, to stress generally, the effects of noise on employees, and the use of high-powered tools and machinery.

Technology and knowledge also advanced and it was realised that, to keep first-aiders conversant

with modern conditions and methods of treatment, another manual had to be written.

Dr.A.Howard Toyne again agreed to be responsible for production of the textbook and, on the 2nd July, 1984, the new St John Manual "**AUSTRALIAN FIRST AID**" was introduced to Victoria by Dr.Alan S.Davis, OSTJ, Chairman of the St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre, at a function held at the Melbourne Town House, 701 Swanston Street, Melbourne, at which Dr.J.P.Bush was Guest Speaker.

This comprehensive manual with its excellent illustrations, up-to-date treatments and inclusion of sections covering sports injuries, emergency childbirth, first aid in remote areas, traffic accident injuries, and safety measures, certainly maintained the policy of a first aid textbook for Australia written, produced and published by Australians. It has proved a great success and will no doubt be in use throughout Australia for many years.

Victorians may be forgiven for feeling a great sense of pride in the achievements of Dr. Howard Toyne and are indebted to him for making his time and expertise available for the benefit of the Order of St John and Australia generally.

In times of emergency, or at disaster scenes, members of the Rescue and Mobile Nursing

Squads need additional knowledge and expertise to enable them to efficiently set up and operate Advanced First Aid Posts. Respiratory problems must be quickly dealt with, first aid treatments given in the field checked and, whenever necessary improved, before casualties are transferred to Emergency or Base Hospitals. It is of vital importance to the future well-being of casualties that personnel are highly trained and able to give the service required.

With this in mind, in 1969, Dr.J.Peter Bush, District Officer, Victoria and Mrs M Davenport, Officer-in-Charge Mobile Nursing, Victoria District, produced "Rescue Nursing", a training manual for Mobile Nursing and Rescue Squads of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District. This text was to be used in conjunction with the existing First Aid Manuals, its purpose being to cover the area between 'on-site' emergency first aid and the admission of casualties to Base Hospitals.

The high standard of efficiency attained by members of Rescue and Mobile Nursing Squads may be attributed to the constant and comprehensive training they received and, to this end, "Rescue Nursing" made a valuable contribution.

"White Cross"

In July 1958, a further step forward was taken by the Order of St John in Victoria. A means of communication was provided whereby the highest ranking administrative officer was able to have contact with members and interested parties at all levels, even to the newest and most junior member of the organisation, all members being eligible for the same privilege.

This communication vehicle took the form of a publication bearing the title "White Cross" -

recognised as the official journal of the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria.

The magazine was published quarterly and, as proof of the esteem in which the quality of its content was held, a great number of people today are able to produce complete collections of the issues of this journal. In itself this is a great compliment to those concerned with its production

and is evidence of the appreciation of readers for the high standard maintained.

The journal breathed life into our organisation. There was something for everybody.

It was informative readers were kept in touch with current affairs and of anticipated future events.

It was instructive articles written by experts increased the knowledge of readers and covered a wide range of topics.

Training methods especially those newly introduced, were published in detail so that everyone had access to this information.

Photographs were of great interest and of good quality.

Social Items provided humour and personal interest.

Communication was excellent.

The overall effect was stimulating and it is a matter of wonder, even now, how its founder, Robert Leslie Craigie, managed alone to act as Editor, Publisher, Distributor, and as well, to cope with the many other problems associated with the production of a magazine. He also found time to sell advertising space to business men, which helped to defray production costs.

The effort of District Officer Les Craigie was indeed exceptional. This service to the Brigade in producing "White Cross" promptly each quarter over a period of eight years was recognised by his admission to the Order as a Serving Brother on the 14th November, 1959 and his subsequent promotion to the grade of Officer Brother on the 26th February, 1964.

For a period of two years prior to his retirement as Editor, Les Craigie shared the responsibility with Mr David Alexander McIntyre who agreed to

become Honorary Editor of the publication as from January 1967.

During the fourteen years he held this position, a fictional reporter called "Snoopy" was created. "Snoopy's" column in each issue covered items of gossip and fun involving well-known people in the organisation and was always interesting to read.

The high standard of the journal never deteriorated and, when David McIntyre retired as Honorary Editor in 1981, "White Cross" had been currently circulating for a period of twenty three years under the guidance of only two Editors. An achievement in which great pride must have been felt and one earning sincere congratulations.

Successive Honorary Editors of "White Cross" were Robin Hale, Michael A. Bonacci and Howard A. McPhee and homage is paid to their contributions. However, with work and family commitments, together with health problems, it was not possible for these capable people to devote the time essential for a regular production of the publication.

Since 1982, a "new look" presentation of "White Cross" took place and was well received by readers. The general standard of the journal continues to be at a high level but the inability to maintain regular quarterly issues must be detrimental to its continuance and is viewed with sadness.

An official journal for any organisation is its mouthpiece. It has the capacity to reach and influence people, not only those in the local area but many further afield or in other associated organisations. In furthering the work of our organisation, may special efforts be made to maintain this essential and most important communication outlet?

What of the Future?

The mystery of the future has always proved intriguing and it is a very human trait to wonder who will continue tasks which have been started when those responsible are no longer there to supervise. It is understandable for some apprehension to be felt that years of striving to improve an organisation may be rendered futile by a less-caring generation.

In many instances time has proved fears groundless and prognostications very wrong and this will surely be so with regard to the Order of St John which, despite many calamities, has survived for centuries.

What we sadly lack as age advances is faith and confidence in young people. We fail to recognise the fact that they are at ease with modern innovations and standards and far better equipped

to cope with problems than we of older generations who find difficulty in coming to terms with 20th century methods and attitudes.

The Order of St John demands the best from its members and there is no doubt that the service and spirit of unselfish caring for others, which has been prominent for hundreds of years, is still very much in evidence today.

Pam O'Brien (now Mrs Paia), who spent much of her life in the service of St John is a fine example of this and, while the Order can continue to produce members of such calibre and inspire high ideals, there can be no doubt of its enduring success as a voluntary organisation of caring people. It is a privilege to present the story of Pam O'Brien (Mrs Paia) in the biographical section (Appendix "H") of this history.

Concern for the Future of the Brigade in Australia

In his address at the Commissioner's Conference held on 20th June 1983 (the Centenary year of the Order of St John in Australia), Dr.J.P.Bush drew attention to the past with its achievements, the present as we know it, and the unknown future.

Called, "St John Ambulance Brigade - Direction for the Future", a portion of the address is reproduced verbatim below:-

Introduction:

"The opportunity presented by the session today is a challenge to us all.

It would be much easier to sit back and say "all is well with the Brigade" - because the Brigade is doing a good job we can carry on as we are and as we have been for a hundred years. We should be neglecting our responsibilities if we did leave it at that. Both the Chancellor and the Chief Commissioner have given a lead and have expressed their views. Now you have an opportunity to assess the Brigade and help plan for the future.

A centenary provides an opportunity to reflect; it provides an occasion for congratulations but it also

produces a responsibility for us to make such an assessment.

We now have an opportunity to look forward to the next hundred years of St John. Some of us will see only a small fraction of this, yet others in the Brigade today will see a significant proportion of that hundred years. It is therefore important that the views and opinions of all members of the Brigade and especially the younger ones today be heard. We must not forget that we older ones hold the Brigade in trust for its future members; grey beards must not sit back and say "this is what has been done, this is how it must continue."

As a young man I recall being frustrated when told by my elders that something cannot be done in a certain way, it must be done thus as it always has been.

Experience is valuable but experience is only the foundation upon which to build. Conclusions drawn from that experience must be sound, there must be vision and breadth.

To plan for the future one must be freed from the tyranny of the past or indeed the restrictions of the present. This does not necessarily mean that one must seek change for changes sake alone.

Changes:

One thing is certain though, there will be changes. There must be. What was accepted a hundred years ago need not necessarily be wrong today but it is probably capable of adaptation and improvement. Those of you who remember the film "The Pulse of Life" will recall a picture of the coals being heaped on the chest of the corpse in hopeful anticipation of a revival. Dr Struan Sutherland's recently published book on Australian Animal Toxins reports many treatments available a hundred years ago for snake bite. To us these are now incredible. They include the intravenous

injection of liquid ammonia, injections of strychnine, eating of the poison gland of an identical snake or even blowing off the bitten part with gunpowder or amputating the limb with an axe.

The fact that we still have controversies over the correct treatment for snake bite illustrates my point. In the year 2083 I have no doubt our successors will have seen many many changes in recommended First Aid treatment and some of the practices we defend and argue about most vehemently now will have been shown to be incorrect, inadvisable and will have been superseded by more practical, safer and more effective treatments. Perhaps Mr London will be talking along these lines tonight.

If you followed the example today of the designs on the printed bandage, which I hope you all have, you would not pass the standard First Aid examination of the Association, yet in my opinion you would not do your patient any harm. Not so the coals, the strychnine, the incision of the snake bite.

This hour today I believe can be one of great importance for the future of the Brigade. The history of a hundred years of voluntary service by Doctor Ian Howie-Willis shortly to be available has catalogued the achievements of St John during that last hundred years. It is not for me to do more than recommend that book. We must now look forward..."

A Questionnaire prepared by Dr Bush and sent out to Brigade members produced interesting results. In brief, the following points emerged:-

1. There was concern over finance.
2. Administrative support was inadequate.
3. There was an urgent need for more Government support to the Brigade.
4. The Brigade should be involved in disaster rescue type activities.

5. Some form of hospital involvement, either in casualty or nursing, was acceptable and desirable.
6. Home visiting and other welfare activities received considerable support.
7. There were conflicting views on the retirement age, uniforms, methods of recognition and awards.
8. A good consensus of agreement showed in the need for a greater development of the Cadet Section as a youth movement.

In summarising the replies into one pertinent comment, Dr Bush pointed out that we are trying to operate a 1930s type organisation for the demands of the 1980s and now we are looking forward to the 1990s and the 21st century.

Having taken stock we must look forward and the following are extracts from the Commissioner's address:-

.... *"Successful businesses use marketing techniques which are relevant to the 1980s. Practical suggestions for improvement which follow inevitably from the interpretation of the inadequacy in leadership, government recognition, finance, recruiting, co-operation with ambulance services and so on perhaps can all be summed up in the words of one response which implies the ability to respond quickly, effectively, publicly and when needed. I believe these ideals and these aims are realistic and not just pie in the sky. They need finance, administration and organisation and this does mean a professional approach.*

This means making certain the community knows we need support to do the job they, the community, is demanding."...

.... "We can change attitudes, we can change the position of bandages, change the treatment of snake bite, we can change administrative methods but we cannot change the fact that our skills and abilities are going to be needed at any time of the day or night, we cannot change the need for T.L.C. (tender loving care), we cannot change the fact that it will be difficult to obtain financial support. What we must do is to recognise these inevitabilities and the facts we can change and in the next hundred years ensure that the appropriate changes are made so that St John Ambulance can adequately and effectively meet the challenges the future will bring.

St John in Canada is well known for its Safety and Prevention based First Aid teaching; St John in the United Kingdom is looking at the gaps between the medical emergency care being planned and provided by State Authorities and the total likely needs of the community in the 1980s to 2000 years and beyond and looking at ways in which St John can fill in some of these gaps. St John in Australia - what can we do? And what can we contribute? How do we ensure there is adequate finance and effective administration to make it all work? Perhaps our starting point is to ensure that St John Ambulance Association and Brigade are pulling together in each State. Perhaps we look to recruiting, to have an organisation 30,000 strong by the end of 1985. This is not a pipe dream, this surely in fact could be our greatest contribution to celebrate this centenary year.".....

Appendix 'A'

The Order of St John

Deputy Priors

Since an Australian Priory with its Headquarters in Canberra was established in 1946, the Governor-General of Australia accepted appointment as Prior of the Order of St John in Australia, while the Governors of each State agreed to act as Deputy Priors in their respective States.

Victoria District

17.7.1939 - 20.2.1949	Major-General Sir Winston Joseph Dugan, GCMG, CB, DSO.
18.10.1949 - 8.5.1963	General Sir Reginald Alexander Dallas Brooks, KCB, KCMG, KCVO, DSO, KStJ.
8.5.1963 - 3.6.1974	Major-General Sir Rohan Delacombe, KCMG, KCVO, KBE, CB, DSO, KStJ.
3.6.1974 - 1.3.1982	Sir Henry Winneke, KCMG, KCVO, OBE, KStJ.
1.3.1982 - 3.10.1985	Rear-Admiral Sir Brian Murray, KCMG, AO, KStJ.
18.2.1986 -	Dr Davis Mc Caughey, AC.



Colonel George Horne, Commissioner 1909-1921



Maj-Gen. Rupert Downes, Commissioner 1921-1945



Colonel Alexander Sherwin, Commissioner 1945-51



Brigadier Sir William Johnston, Commissioner 1951-56



Major-General Sir Frank Kingsley Norris,
Commissioner 1956-59



Colonel Douglas Donald, Commissioner 1959-66



Lt-Colonel Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris,
Commissioner 1966-69



Dr Arthur William Burton, Commissioner 1969-72

Appendix 'B'

St John Ambulance Association Centre Committee

When the St John Ambulance Association was formulated by Dr J.E.Neild in Victoria in 1883, the activities of the Organisation were carefully supervised and guided by a body of interested influential men who agreed to become members of a Committee for the Victorian Centre. These men

devoted a great deal of time to Association matters and gave freely of their expertise in varying fields to benefit the Organisation generally.

Naturally, a great deal of responsibility was accepted by the Chairman and it is fitting that such service should be recorded in this history.

SJAA Centre Committee Chairmen

1883 – 1885	Mr Coppin
1886 – 1897	Lloyd Tayler, Esq.
1898 – 1900	Dr James E. Neild (Hon Associate)
1901 – 1906	John Blyth Esq.
1907 – 1908	Dr J.W. Springthorpe
1909 – 1916	Dr Charles Bage
1917	R.L. McAdam, Esq. BA, MD.
1918	Harrie B.Lee Esq.
1919 – 1920	Thomas L. Paterson, Esq, JP. (Hon. Serving Brother)
1921 – 1922) 1925) 1927 – 1929)	V.B. Trapp, Esq. (Knight of Grace)
1930 – 1931) 1934 – 1935) 1932 – 1933) 1936 – 1937)	Lloyd Brind, Esq. (Officer Brother)
1938 – 1940	A.P.Gardiner, Esq.
1941 – 1942	F.W.Kaiser (Officer Brother)
1943 – 1947	W.E.Purbrick, Esq.
1948 – 1949	E.Ormond Baker, Esq., J.P.
1950 – 1951	J.A.H.Sherwin, VD, MD, FRACS, KStJ.
1952 – 1953) 1960 – 1961	Major-General F.Kingsley Norris, CBE, DSO, ED.
1954 – 1956	Air Vice-Marshal E.A. Daley, CBE, OStJ, QHP.
1957 – 1959) 1968	Mr. Geoffrey Newman Morris, CStJ, ED.
1962 – 1964	Colonel Douglas Donald, CStJ, ED.
	Dr.A.W.Burton, SBStJ.

1965 – 1967	Dr.H.H.Jackson, OStJ.
1969 – 1971	Dr.A.H. Toyne, CStJ.
1972 – 1974	Dr.J.P. Bush, CStJ.
1975 – 1977	Dr.A.M. Beech, OStJ.
1978 – 1981	Dr.J.A.Mawdsley, CStJ.
1982 – 1985	Dr.A.S.Davis, OstJ.
1986 -	Mr.D.L.Fraser, OStJ.

Up to the year 1954 when the administration was restructured and divided into two administrative bodies, ie “Council” and “Centre Committee”, the Victoria Centre Officers filled the positions of President and Chairman of the Meetings which embraced the activities of both the Centre and the Council.

Records relating to Chairmen presiding over Meetings until the end of 1953 would, therefore, be the same for the Council as those shown for the Victorian Centre. From 1954, however, the position was as follows:-

State Council Chairmen

1954 – 1962	Brigadier W.W.S.Johnston, CBE, DSO, MC, KStJ, ED.
1963 – 1968	Major-General Sir Kingsley Norris, KBE, CB, DSO, KStJ, ED.
1969 – 1976	Colonel Douglas Donald, KStJ, ED.
1977 – 1979	Colonel Douglas Donald, CBE, KStJ, ED.
1980 – 1982	Sir Benjamin Rank, CMG, CStJ.
1983 -	Mr F.R.G.Strickland, OBE, OStJ.

State Council Presidents

1954 – 1976	Lieut-General The Hon. Sir Edmund Herring, KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, KStJ, ED.
1977 – 1982	Sir John Young, KCMG, KStJ.
1983 -	Sir Benjamin Rank, CMG, CStJ.



Dr Harry Jackson, Commissioner 1972-74



Dr Peter Bush, Commissioner 1974-80



Dr Edward Brentnall, Commissioner 1984-87



Maj-General Frank Poke, Commissioner 1980-84



Herman Woess, District Superintendent 1927



Colonel Alexander Christie, District Superintendent 1950-58



Max Phelan, District Superintendent 1968-74



Norman Billing, District Superintendent 1958-68

Appendix “C”**St John Ambulance Brigade - Victoria District Commissioners**

1909 – 1921	Lieutenant-Colonel George Horne, VD, AAMC.
1921 – 1945	Major-General Sir Rupert Downes, CMG, VD, MD, MS, KStJ.
1945 – 1951	Colonel A.J.Sherwin, KStJ, VD.
1951 – 1956	Brigadier Sir William Johnston, CBE, DSO, MC, KStJ, ED.
1956 – 1959	Major General Sir Frank Kingsley Norris, CB, CBE, DSO, KStJ, ED, QHP.
1959 – 1966	Colonel Douglas Donald, KStJ, ED.
1966 – 1969	Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, KStJ, ED.
1969 – 1972	Dr.A.W.Burton, KStJ.
1972 – 1974	Dr.H.H.Jackson, CStJ.
1974 – 1980	Dr.J.P.Bush, KStJ.
1980 – 1984	Major-General F.E.Poke, AO, OStJ, ED.
1984 -	Dr.E.W.Brentnall, MBE, ED.

Appendix 'D'

St John Ambulance Brigade - Victoria District

District Surgeons

1954 – 1960	Dr.V.C.Dyring, OStJ.
1960 – 1961	Lieutenant-Colonel G.Newman-Morris, CStJ, ED.
1962 – 1966	Dr.W.Balfour Wishart, OStJ.
1966 – 1969	Dr.Robert Southby, OStJ.
1969 – 1971	Dr.J.P.Bush, CStJ.
1972 – 1974	Dr.A.M.Beech, OStJ, QHS.
1974 – 1980	Dr.E.W.Brentnall, MBE, SBStJ.
1980 -	Dr.A.S.Davis, OStJ.

District Nursing Officers

1967 – 1973	Sister M.M. Green, SSStJ.
1973 -	Sister B.J.Davis, CStJ.



Roy Green, District Superintendent 1974-83



Derek Bateman, District Superintendent 1983-85



Miss Louise Peverill, D/S(Nursing) 1951-63



Miss Edith Wells, D/S(Nursing) 1932-51



Massie Davenport, D/S(Nursing) 1974-79



Thelma Peverill, D/S(Nursing) 1980-83



Annis Crerar, D/S(Nursing) 1963-67



Monica Green, D/S(Nursing) 1983-

Appendix 'E'

St John Ambulance Brigade Victoria District

District Superintendents Administration:

1927	Herman Woess, Esq., OStJ.
1939 or 1940	Lieut-Col. H.A.F. Wilkinson (Private Secretary to Governor, Sir Winston Dugan)
1950 – 1958	Colonel A.Christie, MBE, CStJ.
1958 – 1968	N.A.Billing, KStJ, JP.
1968 – 1974	M.D.Phelan, CStJ.
1974 – 1983	Major R.Green, KStJ, ED.
1983 – 1985	D.W.Bateman, CStJ, QPM, JP.
1985 -	N.T.Mason, SBStJ.

District Superintendents Nursing:

1932 – 1951	Miss E.Wells, DStJ.
1951 – 1963	Miss L.E. Peverill, OstJ.
1963 – 1967	Mrs.A.Crerar, OStJ.
1967 – 1969	Mrs.J.B.Weston, C(S)StJ.
1969 – 1973	Dr.M.C.Irvine, O(S)StJ. (Acting)
1974 – 1979	Mrs.M.Davenport, O(S)StJ.
1980 – 1983	Miss T.C.Peverill, DStJ.
1983 -	Sister M.M. Green, CStJ.

Appendix 'F'

Awards for service:**British Empire Medal:**

Corporal Thomas BROWN (Boronia-Basin Rescue Squad) Sergeant William BUCKLE (Springvale Rescue Squad) Sergeant Brian FRENCH (Wangaratta Rescue Squad) Private Richard SHRIMPTON (Waverley Rescue Squad)	<u>1969</u> : Honoured by the Queen for special service to their country. (Activities during bush fires.)
Sergeant Stewart GRANGER (Footscray Rescue Squad)	<u>1970</u> : <u>Citation reads</u> : "For rescue and treatment of many people in difficult and dangerous situations"
Corporal Valerie GREENE (Ormond Nursing Division)	<u>1970</u> : "For services to bush fire victims and during the 'Southern Aurora' disaster."
Sergeant John BALSHAW (Ringwood-Nunawading Rescue Squad)	<u>1970</u> : For efforts for the Brigade.
Private Michael KNIGHT (Shepparton Division)	<u>1970</u>
Mrs. Elaine ARMSTRONG (Ormond Nursing Division) Mr Alan SPARKS (Ringwood-Nunawading Rescue Squad)	<u>1972</u> : For gallantry during rescue operations after the West Gate Bridge disaster.
Mrs Vera FYFE (Ladies' Auxiliary)	<u>1976</u> : For community service.

Certificate of Commendation:

Mrs Woyna PEDRETTI (Dandenong Nursing Division)	<u>1969</u> : For rescue and treatment of injured skin diver
---	--

Companion of The Order of the British Empire (C.B.E):

Colonel Douglas DONALD (Chief Commissioner)	<u>1970</u>
--	-------------

Council Community Award:

Corps Cadet Officer Bill NOONAN	<u>1977</u> : In recognition of the work of St John in the area.
--	--

Churchill Fellowship:

District Superintendent Maxwell D. PHELAN	<u>1969</u> : Awarded for overseas study in Disaster Control, Rescue Techniques, Civil Defence, Ambulance Services, First Aid training of the public and medical profession's participation in all these.
---	---

Distinguished Service Award Australian Red Cross Society Victorian Division:

Colonel Alexander CHRISTIE	<u>1964</u> : First time award given to a person outside the Society.
-----------------------------------	---

Life Saving Medal of The Order of St John of Jerusalem

Sergeant Edward BRINER (Gold Medal) Section Officer Alan M SMITH (Bronze Medal) (Both from Broadmeadows Rescue Squad.)	1971: For the rescue of a youth from a cave at Claremont, Tasmania.
---	---

Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

Divisional Superintendent Brian CANTLON (Pahran Division)	1977: For long and valuable service to the Order of St John
---	---

Meritorious Service Certificate

Nursing Cadet Dianne ALLAN (Broadmeadows Division) (11 years of age at the time)	1962: For assistance given and treatment rendered to victims of a two car collision. (1 fatality and 5 injured).
Private Brian WALTON (City of Melbourne Division)	1963: For responsibility of directing operations and first aid rendered to victim trapped between the edge of a bridge and train wheels
Mrs Massie DAVENPORT (District Officer {N})	1968: For care and attention given under difficult conditions to two seriously injured victims of a motor accident at Nar-nar-goona during their transfer to the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne.
Mr Douglas MALONE Mr Bill MASSON Mr Bill PUNTON (All from Marong Division)	1975: For assistance with the rescue of a 16 year old trail bike rider from a disused mine shaft on 9.8.1975.
District Officer Mervyn GOODALL , OStJ.	1978: Life of Head Trainer of St Kilda Football Club saved by application of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation following cardiac arrest.
Sergeant Phyllis C. COLLERY , SSStJ. (Ormond Nursing Division)	1982: Assistance rendered when woman fell under a train at Malvern Railway Station

Order of the British Empire (OBE):

Mrs Elizabeth BURTON	1970
-----------------------------	------

Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee Medal 1977

Special recognition for long and valuable service to the Order of St John.

Dr Peter BUSH (District Commissioner)	Mrs Bobbie DAVENPORT (District Superintendent [N])	Mrs Barbara DAVIS (District Nursing Officer)
Mr Keith EVANS (District Officer)	Mr Mervyn GOODALL (District Officer)	Major Roy GREEN (District Superintendent)
Mr Jack HULLS (District Officer)	Mr Trevor MACFARLANE (District Officer)	Mr Max McLACHLAN (District Officer)
Miss Thelma PEVERILL (District Officer [N])	Mr Clarrie SUTTON (Staff Officer)	

Rotary - Paul Harris Fellowship

Mr Wilfred Douglas ILIFFE , OSTJ. (Staff Officer Communications)	1984: In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the St John Ambulance Brigade.
---	--

Royal Australian Humane Society

Mr Jack ROWE Mr Joseph TYERS (Both from Maryborough Division)	1966: For rescue of children from a mine shaft.
Superintendent Wilfred LEVERSHA (Marong Division)	1975: For rescue of a 16 year old trail bike rider from a disused mine shaft on 9.8.1975.

Special Commendation

Sister Jan WHATMOUGH Corps Superintendent Eric DONALD (No.5 Corps) Private Brett HUME (Waverley/Camberwell Division)	1975: Following life-saving attempts at Sunbury Pop Festival.
---	---

Commissioner's Commendation

ACADEMY of MARY IMMACULATE Miss Mary CARGIOLI	1978
--	------

J Peter Bush Perpetual Trophy

Mornington/Frankston Combined Division	1981: Most improved adult division in 1981.
--	---

Recognition of Services

District Officer Wilfred Douglas ILIFFE, OStJ. (Staff Officer Communications) Corps Superintendent William Samuel MACKIESON, OStJ. (No 4 Corps) Divisional Superintendent Maxwell John BARNED Woodend Division. Divisional Superintendent Ian HAVIN Communications Division Corps Officer Alan MARSHALL (No 3 Corps) No. 3 Corps No. 4 Corps Woodend Combined Division Communications Division Victoria District Morwell Division Traralgon Division Warburton Division	In 1983 these individuals and units received Citations recognising outstanding service during the 1983 Victorian bushfires.
--	--

Victorian Citizenship Award

Mr Richard BLUCK	1985: A special honour created to commemorate Victoria's 150th anniversary. Won for his contributions to Victoria and Victorians.
-------------------------	---

Trophies for Most Improved Divisions

Adult- Echuca Division	1978
Cadet -Croydon Nursing Cadet Division	

Appendix 'G'

Historical Section

While every Division has built up some sort of history concerning origin, problems and achievements few such records have been preserved, or are unavailable, and reference cannot be made to them. It is acknowledged with great sincerity that each Division makes a valuable

contribution to the Brigade as a whole and efforts, large or small, are greatly appreciated.

In order to publicise the growth and expansion of the Brigade generally, a few Divisions have been chosen as being representative of all and details of their progress may prove of interest.

Caulfield Division

The year was 1930, the man W.E. ("Bill") Fyfe, his ambition, to form a local Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

As the suburb of Caulfield was rapidly growing, it needed such an organisation in its midst to cater for sporting bodies as well as the people of the district generally. So, with this in mind, Mr Fyfe approached the then Secretary of the St John Ambulance Association, Mr H Lord, for permission to proceed. This was readily given together with much encouragement and advice.

Advertisements in the local papers seeking members to join this new Caulfield Organisation were most disappointing as not one reply was received. Mr Fyfe, however, was a determined man and, as he had his heart set on starting a Division in Caulfield, he decided to run a First Aid class for men with a view to recruiting members.

When the Caulfield Council was approached regarding a place to hold the class, a room was immediately made available. The first class was conducted in December 1929 but there were insufficient recruits from it to start a Division. A further class was arranged in August 1930 and

interested men from both classes provided the required number to start a Division. Mr Fyfe's dream then became a reality.

The foundation members were:

Divisional Superintendent W. E. Fyfe

Divisional Surgeon Dr W. J. O'Loughlin

Sergeant H. Boyd

Private T. F. Baird

Private H. L. Bates

Private H.W. Cronk

Private N. L. Caldwell

Private M.C. Evans

Private W.C. Fisher

Private F. Fletcher

Private E. Gibson

Private H. J. Gamble

Private J.Gray

Private J. Gibbs

Private E. Kemmis

Private A. A. Lee

Private A. McCrae

Private Williamson

Private C. M. Morphet

Private B. Meyer
 Private W. D. Russell
 Private H. A. Rider
 Private J. Smith
 Private A. C. Thompson
 Private D. W. Wale
 Private K. J. Ward
 Private J. C. Wisdom
 Private C. S. Yeoman

As a permanent meeting place was now required for the Division, the Caulfield Council again assisted by granting the use of the Court House, situated in the Town Hall buildings, for weekly drills and practice nights. This large room, so centrally situated, was absolutely ideal for the purpose.

The spirit of helpfulness so readily demonstrated by the Caulfield Council to its Ambulance Division has been consistent over a long period of years and, while the Council representatives have naturally changed, this spirit of assistance has been handed down as faithfully as have the robes of office. For this, the Caulfield Ambulance Division was grateful.

The problem of finance always proved a difficult one but, in 1930 when the whole world was experiencing the greatest depression ever known, it was a problem of great magnitude. However, uniforms, bandages, dressings, splints etc were essential and, of the many suggestions tried out, that of each member paying for his own uniform and being reimbursed when the Division had the funds proved successful. As did the suggestion to hold a Carnival at the Caulfield Racecourse recreation reserve, in conjunction with the Mayor of Caulfield's Unemployed Relief Committee. Sergeant H Boyd was appointed Organiser and Secretary and, mainly due to his sterling work, the Carnival was a great success. This was reflected in the financial position of the Division, as they now

possessed ten uniforms and a quantity of First Aid material. Membership totalled 25.

As it became known in the district, the Division received numerous requests from Football Clubs and other Organisations for it to provide the necessary First Aid coverage at sporting and other functions.

The year 1932 saw the Division with a strong membership of 34 men, 15 of whom were in uniform. This enabled the Division to undertake a variety of duties and the annual returns revealed that 340 cases had been treated during the year. This was the reason which motivated men to join the Division and they revelled in the work.

Caulfield's loss was another's gain when, early in 1932, Sergeant Boyd was asked to help with the formation of a new Motor Cycle Division. He transferred as its Superintendent.

The Victorian Scout Jamboree in 1933 at which the World Chief Scout, the late Lord Baden-Powell was present and which was attended by Scouts from all over the world, was a highlight of the year for Caulfield. Their Divisional Superintendent, Mr Fyfe, was in charge of the entire ambulance arrangements for the camp.

The visit of His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester in October 1934 attracted huge crowds and every Ambulance Division in Melbourne gave its utmost. Caulfield men rendered excellent service wherever they were on duty - in fact, at the Dedication of the Shrine of Remembrance, they alone treated over 80 casualties.

With the coming of the year 1935, there also came what proved to be the first of a long series of successes in First Aid competitive work. A competition between all Divisions in Victoria was held, the winner's trophy being donated by "The Herald" newspaper publishers. Each Division was represented by a team of four men, Caulfield's representatives being Corporal M Jackson, Private L Batchelor, Private T Flowerday and Honorary

Sergeant V Gray, trained by Ambulance Officer H Draisey whose coaching was invaluable.

Colonel Sleeman, from the United Kingdom, Commissioner-in-Chief for the St John Ambulance Brigade Overseas, visited Victoria District in 1936 and, during a gathering at Bayswater, requested that a team from Caulfield build an improvised stretcher. This demonstration was repeated at a later date on the stage of the Melbourne Town Hall at an official function in honour of the Commissioner-in-Chief.

During the year of 1936 a further series of competitions were held, this time for a trophy known as the "Connibere Shield". These differed somewhat from previous competitions in that 16 men in full uniform were required to compete in various branches of work such as marching, squad drill and stretcher drill, as well as First Aid. The Caulfield men carried off the trophy and they won this Shield every year (with the exception of the war period when competitions were not held) until 1949, when it was lost to the Melbourne Division, but regained in 1950.

In 1937 Victoria suffered an epidemic of Infantile Paralysis which claimed hundreds of victims and brought fear to the hearts of everyone, and tragedy to many families. As time passed, the Society for Crippled Children received an urgent call from the Paralysis After-Care Committee for more, and still more, prams for children being discharged from hospital to enable others to be admitted. This request was passed on to the Caulfield Division who immediately organised a working party and, through the generosity of a Caulfield citizen, Mr C C Darby, who placed his workshop and machinery at their disposal, 350 cots and prams were speedily made. A tremendous effort when it is realised the men only had their "spare" time to devote to it.

As Melbourne's Civil Ambulance Service was working under intense difficulties during this epidemic, the Ambulance Superintendent asked Caulfield to supply personnel to assist in the transport of sick and injured persons. Four

volunteers were on duty at Ambulance Headquarters the night following the request and they pioneered an arrangement, which remained in force for many years, whereby men, now from several Divisions, gave voluntary assistance each night.

"Black Friday", 13th January 1939, was the never to be forgotten day of disastrous bush fires which swept across the State and left a devastating trail of destruction. The Superintendent and 14 members of Caulfield Division were called from their work and sent to various parts of the State to render first aid and assistance to persons suffering from burns, smoke affected eyes and exhaustion. There were hundreds of such casualties and the Brigade men were fully occupied from the Friday until the Monday night when the situation eased somewhat.

In recognition of their efforts, the Victorian Red Cross Society presented each man with a Special Certificate.

Many members of Caulfield Division enlisted for active service during World War II, including Superintendent Fyfe who joined the Army Medical Corps. Ambulance Officer Les Batchelor was promoted to Divisional Superintendent to replace Mr Fyfe, and Sergeant Flowerday became the Divisional Ambulance Officer.

To offset falling membership in the Division during the war years, shortage of men was the impelling force behind a decision taken in 1941 which has been, and still is, of inestimable value. This was the raising of a Cadet Division. Boys were to be recruited into a Cadet Division, receive elementary training in First Aid and, on attaining 16 years of age, would then be eligible to join the Senior Division. The Caulfield Cadet Division was a great success, mainly due to the enormous amount of work put into it by its leader, Superintendent E Gauhl.

A Ladies' Auxiliary, under the capable and efficient leadership of Mrs Fyfe, was formed in 1941 and these ladies sent parcels of food and

comforts to members serving with the Defence Forces overseas. After the war, the Ladies' Auxiliary devoted its energy to raising a considerable sum of money for Divisional funds.

As the Divisional Surgeon, Dr Tymms, was killed in action, the vacancy was filled by Dr Carl Dyring who applied himself wholeheartedly to the work of the Division and proved a wonderful asset.

Brigade history was created when Victoria District was formed into a series of Corps, each one

consisting of a number of Divisions with a Corps Superintendent at its head, assisted by a Corps Officer. Caulfield was honoured by having its founder, Mr W Fyfe, and its then Superintendent, Mr Batchelor, appointed as leaders of No 5 Corps.

Many Caulfield men were chosen for higher appointments in the Brigade and the following list is a tribute to the regard in which members of the Division were held:-

Year 1946/1947:

W E Fyfe	Corps Superintendent now District Officer
Dr V.C.Dyring	District Surgeon
L.N.Batchelor	Corps Officer now Corps Superintendent
H.Boyd	Superintendent Motor Cycle Division now District Officer
C.Morphett	Superintendent St Kilda Division now Corps Officer
N.Billing	Superintendent Malvern Division
E.McAlpine	Superintendent Box Hill Division
M.Jackson	Superintendent Hawthorn - Kew Division
K.Wilson	Superintendent Sandringham Division
H.Draisey	Superintendent Metropolitan Gas Company Division
V.Gray	Superintendent Mordialloc Division

Ambulance Officer T Flowerday was appointed Superintendent of Caulfield Division following the promotion of Mr Batchelor and this was a fitting recognition of his long and faithful service.

In 1947 Caulfield Division again established itself as a force to be reckoned with in the field of competition. Having won the newly instituted Corps Competition, the Division went on to retain the Connibere Shield, for which competition was reopened after a lapse of eight years. The winners of this Shield became the Victorian State representatives in an Australian Championship Competition which, in turn, was won by the

Caulfield men, thereby becoming the first Victorian team to do so.

It is interesting to note that, on the eve of the Victorian State Competitions, Caulfield's Captain, Sergeant A Tidd, became ill with appendicitis. This caused a reshuffle of the team, which brought Corporal Harry Brown to its leadership. He acquitted himself well and, due to team dedication and the excellent coaching given by Dr Dyring, Caulfield won the competition.

The Division wholeheartedly associated itself with many community activities, one of which was

sending food parcels to England where post-war shortages were causing distress.

Responsibility was also undertaken to supply First Aid coverage for a large camp at Narbethong organised by the Opportunity Clubs. The fact that over 300 patients were treated is indicative of the size of the camp and the demanding nature of the duty.

As the financial position of the Division had caused concern for some years, it was decided to launch the first public appeal to the citizens of Caulfield. The response was very pleasing and the generosity of the people expressed the respect and appreciation they had for the service being so willingly given by members of the Caulfield Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

Following in the footsteps of the Senior Division, the Caulfield Cadet Division in 1949, had three entries in the District Competitions. The boys performed very well indeed, gaining second place in two events and third in another.

When mass X-Ray examinations of the citizens of Victoria were organised by the Government in

1950, at the request of the Caulfield Council, men from the Division were made available to assist with the examination of the local citizens, thus increasing the scope of the Brigade's service to the community.

This Division was built on a strong foundation of faith in its ability to serve, had far-sighted, energetic leaders, and a great team spirit. No request for assistance was neglected and nothing was considered too difficult to tackle.

Although the first 21 years of the Ambulance Division is well recorded, information concerning ensuing years is not available. It is well known, however, that the Division maintained its reputation of high quality service throughout many years.

As society underwent radical changes during the 1970s and 1980s, voluntary organisations bore the brunt of declining memberships and Caulfield Division, along with the Brigade generally was no exception. No doubt other factors need to be taken into consideration when searching for the cause of the deterioration, but it is tragic to realise that such a strong Division almost fell into anonymity.

Caulfield Nursing Division

The Caulfield Nursing Division was formed in 1955 with Miss Joyce Robinson as its Divisional Superintendent. This proved an exciting challenge to Joyce who, for some 15 years, worked diligently to ensure that the Caulfield Nursing Division gained recognition for its reliability and efficient service.

The Ambulance Division was always strongly supported by members of the Nursing Division at duties and in community activities. Many social functions were organised, not only for the purpose of raising funds, but also to maintain the healthy relationship which existed with the Caulfield Council and to foster the interest of local bodies in the work of the Brigade.

Caulfield eventually obtained a well-equipped meeting hall of its own, situated in a very convenient location, as well as a Caravan First Aid Unit which was a great asset for duties.

The standard of training for members of the Nursing Division was high and this was demonstrated when the Caulfield girls won first place in the District First Aid Competitions in 1968 and, as Victoria's representatives in the Australian Championship Competitions held in Canberra, they also proved victorious. Caulfield Nursing Division again won the District Nursing Championship Competitions in 1971.

The Division was indeed fortunate to have Sister Barbara Davis as its Divisional Nursing Officer for

she, no doubt, exerted great influence on the training and standard of work expected from the members. Sister Barbara Davis has been for some years, and is at present, District Nursing Officer for the Brigade in Victoria.

In 1970, following the promotion of Miss Robinson to Corps Officer for No.4 Corps and the appointment of Sister Davis as Corps Nursing Officer, Mrs June McRae accepted responsibility for the Caulfield Nursing Division and became its Divisional Superintendent, while Sister Marie Caldercott became its Divisional Nursing Officer. Mrs McRae, following her subsequent promotion, was succeeded by Mrs Dawn Evelyn as Divisional Superintendent.

Caulfield is now registered as a Combined Division and, under the leadership of Divisional Superintendent Sister M Vianney, Ambulance and Ambulance Cadet members and Nursing and Nursing Cadet members, work together. Sister Vianney accepted an enormous task when she agreed to assist Caulfield Division and is to be congratulated on the result of her indefatigable efforts.

In this year of 1986 membership in the adult sections, Ambulance and Nursing, is gradually increasing, while in the Cadet area, growth is literally 'booming'. The prognosis cannot be other than good, and the day must surely dawn when Caulfield will again become a leading Division of the Brigade in Victoria.

Dandenong Nursing Division

On the 9th September 1947, 19 members transferred from the Voluntary Aid Detachment and formed the Dandenong Nursing Division. The first meeting was held in the Truby King Infant Welfare Centre after which they met at various places ranging from the Auctioneers' offices at the old and new markets, Temperance Hall, Scout Hall,

Church Halls, Town Hall, the Amenities Centre, and the Community Council Centre. Many members remained with the Division for long periods earning service awards, while representatives in Competitions achieved –

Team Section-State Championship 1951-52	First
Home Nursing Section 1953	First
Team section 1953	Second
Individual Section- State Championship 1968	First
Individual Section – State Championship 1976	First

Until Divisions were formed in Warragul, Lilydale and Lang Lang, members of Dandenong Nursing Division travelled these distances by car, train or bus, carrying First Aid kits, blankets and splints. When a building at the old Dandenong Showgrounds was destroyed, the Dandenong Nursing Division carted a tent and the gear for the First Aid Post on a pram. Following the formation of a men's Division, the heavy load of duties on the Nursing Division was lifted.

Although Dandenong and Springvale separated as Shires, Dandenong Nursing Division filled the Blood Bank and Immunisation duties for the whole area, in addition to their other duties. Training was received at several Public Hospitals, and First Aid classes were conducted until the men's Division took over this activity. The Nursing Division still remained responsible for courses of instruction at the High Schools when First Aid was included as part of the curriculum.

Ormond Nursing Division

From the date of its registration, 26th June 1962, by Mrs Bobbie Davenport who became Divisional Superintendent, Ormond Nursing Division set high standards of efficiency for others to emulate. The members are dedicated to the work of the Order of St John and wear their well-launders uniforms with pride and confidence. Whatever they undertake to do, whether it be a duty, a class of instruction, or a social activity, they do it well.

The Division's reputation in competitions - both State and Australian Championships - is formidable as, although the Nursing and Ambulance competitions alternated (Nursing Divisions one year, Ambulance Divisions the next), competing on seven occasions in the years from 1963-1979, Ormond Nursing Division teams registered 4 first and 3 second places. An Individual Event was included as part of the Competition in the year 1964 and Mrs Margaret Briggs of Ormond Nursing Division won it. She was presented with a medal in lieu of a trophy and was permitted to wear it on her uniform at the Annual Inspection and Parade at Government House that year.

Competing in the Individual Event in 1972, Mrs Phyllis Collery won and, as Ormond's team comprising Mrs Valerie Greene, Mrs Phyllis Morris and Mrs Norma Wilson had won the team section, the Nursing Division members were ecstatic having scooped the pool.

Along with other training outlets, during 1964 the members of Ormond Nursing Division commenced a long association with Bethlehem Hospital where many hours of duty were spent helping care for Multiple Sclerosis patients in the Mary Potter Wing.

In 1967 Mrs Davenport made a great contribution to the Brigade. Mobile Squad Nursing, later known as Mobile Nursing, was formed - a sister team to the Rescue Squads formed some years previously. The foundation members were all

Ormond girls and, as the future development, or rejection, of Mobile Nursing rested on the success of their performance, it is fitting that they should be named. They were Bobbie Davenport, Coral Pye, Margaret Briggs, Pat Penduck, Val Greene, Vicki Pummeroy, Elaine Armstrong, Fran Cashman, Marie Chaplin, Phyl Collery, Phyl Morris and Norma Wilson.

Training was undertaken at the RSL Hall where the Ormond Nursing Division held its meetings and at the Davenport's home. The first Mobile Nursing Exercise was held at the Douglas Donald camp site at Yarra Junction and proved a great success. It was agreed that there was a definite place for Mobile Nursing in the field of rescue.

"Nursing 1" was a vehicle obtained from the Port of Melbourne Authority and was fitted out to meet the needs of Mobile Nursing. She was christened "Snow White", was the Division's pride and joy, widely travelled as she took them to duties, callouts and exercises. She acquitted herself well in the Dandenong bushfires of February 1968 being used for duties at Boronia and Upwey as Ormond members attended to aching and weary fire fighters.

The fact that men are better drivers than women was proved to be a fallacy when five Ormond Nursing members passed a very exacting test, identical to that given the men, for rescue vehicle drivers.

Ormond Nursing Division was used to "breaking new ground" and "famous firsts" were no novelty to its members for -

1. It had obtained the first Mobile Nursing Van in Victoria.
2. Ormond Nursing Division had been the first Nursing Division to win an Australian Championship Competition for Victoria.

3. The girls who qualified as drivers of the Mobile First Aid Unit were the first of their sex in Victoria to do so.

One of the proudest occasions for the Division was when a Divisional Flag, donated by The Victorian Master Plumbers' Association Golf Committee, was blessed and dedicated by the Reverend Carl Clayden at the Ormond Church of Christ on the 6th November 1978.

The Division was fortunate in that support was given to its work by a number of organisations. These included -

The Lions Club which supplied the Mobile First Aid Unit (known as "Elsa).

The Master Plumbers' Golf Committee which equipped the Unit, supplied teaching and life support aids, also the running costs of the vehicle.

The Murrumbeena Park Bowling Club which offered the use of its Club Rooms and facilities and staffed the Bar and Kitchen on the occasion of the Division's 21st Birthday celebration.

This function was held on the 20 October 1984 and, to add to the happy atmosphere which prevailed, members of the Division had made two beautifully decorated birthday cakes. As a memento of the occasion Mrs. Pat Penduck produced a booklet outlining the history of the Ormond Nursing Division (as she knew it), a copy being made available to each guest.

Many duties were undertaken by the Ormond Mobile Nursing members including -

1. Travelling with patients in the Air Ambulance Service, assisting the regular Nursing Sisters. This duty was arranged by Mrs. Joy Weston, the District Superintendent (Nursing), and trips were made to Swan Hill, Mildura, King Island and several paddocks to pick up patients, including premature babies in incubators, to be transported to Melbourne for treatment.

2. Bushfire callouts,

3. Mobile Nursing callout to assist at the scene of the Southern Aurora train crash at Violet Town in February 1969.

4. Mobile Nursing callout for duty at the Westgate Bridge following the disastrous collapse of one of the spans.

For their respective efforts, Mrs Valerie Greene at the Southern Aurora crash, and Mrs Elaine Armstrong at the Westgate Bridge collapse, were each honoured with an award of the British Empire Medal.

Ormond Nursing Division was again in the news in April 1982 when Mrs Phyllis Collery committed an act of bravery for which she was awarded the Meritorious Service Certificate and now wears its accompanying silver bar on her uniform. The incident occurred at the Malvern railway station when a lady fell from the platform beneath the train on which Phyl was a passenger.

On looking down under the train from the platform edge, Phyl could see the lady lying face down between the rails with her right leg severed below the knee. Climbing down from the section of the train where two carriages met, Phyl crawled on her hands and knees along to the casualty. She conducted an examination to assess the extent of injury and, with the help of a nurse and a young lad who appeared later, treated the injuries and carefully manipulated a stretcher on which the lady was eventually carried from underneath the train.

Many of the members of the Ormond Nursing Division have earned Service Medals, a number of which now have Service Bars added to them signifying further years of service.

In this happy, busy Division, the spirit of St John is very evident and its Officers and members are to be congratulated on its service and achievements.

Shepparton Division - White Cross June 1968

News Feature by P.J. Grant.

In 1939 two local residents, Mr W McKendrick and Mr A Dodd, saw a sick, elderly lady being carried to a buggy because, at that time, Shepparton had no ambulance and no trained first - aiders. These two men who witnessed the patient's transfer to the buggy decided there and then that something should be done about the lack of qualified personnel and ambulance service.

They got together, formed a Committee and, by various means raised sufficient money to purchase an old "Dodge" Ambulance. It was not an Ambulance as we know them today - the only equipment the old "Dodge" had was a stretcher.

Shepparton's first ambulance was housed at the Fire Station and was driven by a blacksmith. If the Ambulance was required, the Fire Station was telephoned, the blacksmith was contacted and he came from his place of employment to drive the vehicle to the Mooroopna Hospital.

Mr Dodd, Mr McKendrick and a former St John Ambulance member from Melbourne then decided that trained personnel should be available to drive the ambulance and they approached Dr A.E. Dickmann who readily agreed and also offered his services.

Dr Dickmann tutored and examined the first class ever to be conducted in First Aid in the Shepparton area and became the first local District Surgeon for the St John Ambulance Brigade. The First Aid class was held in the Presbyterian Hall in February 1940 and one of the graduates from this inaugural class was Mr Hugh Mahoney who, in 1940, became Shepparton's first qualified ambulance driver.

On the 26th July 1940 a Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade was registered. Members met fortnightly and conducted First Aid classes annually. The following statistics are of interest:-

Year	No. Members	Cases Attended	Average Attendance Fortnightly Meetings
1940	20	10	15
1950	36	450 (300 while on public duty)	20
1966	21 (1 female)	387	

A Women's Division was formed in 1958.

In 1966 a Rescue Squad was added to the Brigade and the Government provided the Shepparton Division with a specially equipped rescue vehicle capable of pulling wrecked motor vehicles, trains and other machinery apart. The "International" ambulance was equipped with porta - power, over 1000 feet of rope, all the First Aid equipment that could ever be required, including remote breathing

equipment, ladders and cliff rescue gear. Members spent over \$200 on extra equipment.

Shepparton Division has given much to its community over a long period of years and members today have a wonderful example of service to live up to.

The Victorian Motor Cycle Patrol Division

The 1st Victoria Motor Cycle Patrol Division was registered on the 24th June 1931 by Mr Harold J Boyd and 24 names, including his own as Divisional Superintendent, appear on the BF1(Registration of Division form). Meetings were conducted each Monday evening at the rear of Kershaw & Collins Motor Cycle shop, 326 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, the premises being made available to the Division free of charge.

As members had to provide their own uniforms and equipment, the following fund-raising efforts were implemented:-

1. The Divisional Superintendent, Mr H.J.Boyd, had a photograph taken of himself riding a motor cycle and then had the photograph perforated in the manner of a sheet of postage stamps. At the top of the photograph was printed "Help to Clothe the Ambulance". Each portion was sold for 3d. (three pence) and a complete card totalled 10 / - (ten shillings). Several hundred were sold.
2. Mr A Binns organised an Old-Time Dance in the Albion Hall, Lygon Street, Brunswick.

The Division carried out the following duties -

1. Road patrols each weekend and at holiday periods along the back road to Sorrento, and along Whitehorse Road to Lilydale.
2. First Aid cover provided for all motor bike and car races at Phillip Island and Warragul and wherever else races or hill climbs were held.

From the beginning of January until the 30th April 1970 over 30 duties were covered with the motor cycle fraternity and a total of 139 casualties were treated. During the same period of the previous year, 29 duties were attended and 87 casualties treated, so 1970 with its busy calendar of current events could prove an unusually busy one for the Motor Cycle Division.

Each duty the Division attends has a duration period of 8-48 hours depending on the type of event and the venue, some activities being as far away from Melbourne as Phillip Island, Hume

Weir, Venus Bay, Campbells Creek and Castlemaine. Other duties recently carried out by the Division include search and rescues, Moomba, the Royal Visit, Anzac Day March and football matches.

Members are very proud of their efforts which enabled new stretchers and other vital equipment to be installed in each of their ambulance vehicles, and also of their ability, not only to bandage fractured bones but to bandage a fractured universal which they managed to do at a recent duty.

Boys were naturally attracted to the Motor Cycle Division and, under the supervision of Mr Allan Taylor, an Ambulance Cadet section of the Division was formed, meetings being held in St Mark's Church of England Hall in Fitzroy. This inner Melbourne district was a difficult one in which to maintain membership and presented many problems which adversely affected the Cadet Division, so a new meeting place was sought.

In addition to his interest in the St John Ambulance Brigade, Mr Craigie ran the Newsboys Club at the Herald Office in Flinders Street, Melbourne and, on condition that the St John Ambulance Motor Cycle Cadets did not interfere in any way with the activities of the newsboys, he gave Mr Taylor permission to use their premises. Mr Allan Taylor was Superintendent of the Cadet Division for many years until ill-health restricted his activities.

On 12th June 1981 the Victoria Motor Cycle Combined Division celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a Dinner Dance at the North Melbourne Social Club. It was a very happy, successful evening and the District Commissioner, Major- General Frank Poke, presented the Division with its Fiftieth Year Certificate.

Over the years the Division has proved to be a strong one, providing exceptionally good service.

Since his appointment in 1969, Superintendent Gordon Woods has worked hard to keep the Division functioning efficiently, and now that the

Division is a Combined one, he and Mr Taylor can look back with pride on its achievements and the parts they played in its development.



District Officer Trevor Macfarlane



Pam O'Brien Paia as Cadet Leader 1972
Broadmeadows Division



Sister Dorothy Deveney



Les Kuffer at his Investiture in 1956



Harry Pascoe, District Officer (Cadets)



Professor Gerard Crock, Priory Hospitaller



Dr Bill Straede, Corps Surgeon (Cadets), North Western Victoria Corps.



Miss Amelia Field with the Governor, Sir Dallas Brooks, at her investiture as Officer Sister in 1954.

Appendix “H”

Biographical Section

Sister Dorothy Marie Deveney, OStJ

The day Sister Deveney became interested in the Order of St John was a fortunate one as, when she subsequently joined the Brigade, she brought with her a wealth of nursing experience and expertise which was invaluable for the training of personnel. She was also a very capable administrator, with a good disposition and personality - an excellent combination for “getting things done”.

Her training commenced at the Royal Children’s Hospital and Allied Hospital on the 20th January 1927 and her nursing career included experience in District Nursing, while training was gained in the Operating Theatres of the Mercy Hospital, Coonara Hospital, Dandenong Hospital and the Orthopaedic Hospital, Frankston.

It was in 1946 that she joined the staff of the Orthopaedic Hospital, Frankston, obtaining a Post - Graduate Certificate in Orthopaedic Nursing in 1947. The challenge and demands of orthopaedic nursing appealed to Sr Deveney who, during her service with the Orthopaedic Hospital Frankston, was Night Superintendent for five years, involved in Theatre work for three years, and eventually became a member of the Administrative Staff. Her service at this hospital covered a period of 23 years.

During 1962 Sr Deveney responded to an advertisement in a local newspaper which required the services of a Trained Nurse to assist with the Mornington Nursing Cadet Division and, as a result, she met with Mrs Freeman and was duly accepted to fill this vacancy.

However, oft the plans of mice and men go awry, as Sr. Deveney received a promotion at the hospital which changed her rostered duty times and her association with the Mornington Nursing Cadets was, of necessity, short-lived. Some time later she was approached by the Frankston Combined Division and was asked to help with Home Nursing and First Aid classes. As a result, in 1963 she joined the Frankston Division of the Brigade. While she was with the hospital she didn’t have a great deal of free time as she worked every weekend but, when she retired from the Orthopaedic Hospital on its closure and returned to the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne, she was able to and did become very involved with the work of St John. The following is a resume’ of her achievements in the Brigade and Order:-

Enrolled in Frankston Combined Division as Divisional Nursing Officer 11/6/1963

Appointed No. 6 Corps Nursing Officer 8/7/1976

Admitted to Order of St John as Serving Sister 24/11/1976

Promoted in Order of St John to Officer Sister 1981

The Frankston Combined Division only had a small membership, but the Cadet Section was very strong. It was unfortunate, however, that there was little co-operation between the Cadets and Adults of the Division. Sr Deveney spent 15 years as Transport Officer Cadets, driving them to and from duties. This close association with Cadets led to her introducing on-site training at duties and, as a result, the Cadets now play a very important, active part in the Brigade’s provision of First Aid coverage at VFL Park. The Cadets have accepted responsibility for the setting up of the First Aid

Rooms in readiness for senior personnel, a task they do well and Sr Deveney can be proud of their efforts.

In her early days with Frankston Combined Division equipment was very scarce and there was only an old vehicle for transportation. Individual members took First Aid equipment to duties and treatments were usually effected utilising the boot of a car or in the shelter of a shady tree. If the weather proved unfavourable a tent, or a room at the venue was shared with either the catering or ticket-selling staff and, at times, this created complicated situations.

The Division was working towards up-dating its equipment - a rather slow, laborious task-when a heaven-sent opportunity was provided which hastened achievement of this goal. Obviously it was Sr Deveney's connection with the Frankston Combined Division which influenced ladies of the Auxiliary of the closed Frankston Orthopaedic Hospital to ask if they could work for St John - an offer which was gladly accepted.

As a result, over a period of several years, the following equipment was obtained for the Division:

A Mobile First Aid Post (a caravan)

New cupboards for proper storage of equipment

New Manikins

A Slide Projector

A Whiteboard-Blackboard

A Skeleton

A security room for equipment

Frankston (2) Mobile First Aid Post

Following her appointment as Corps Nursing Officer (No. 6 Corps) in 1976, Sr Deveney continued to work with the Auxiliary in helping the Frankston Division. When the Division had no Superintendent she agreed to act as Administrator and, for a period of seven years she undertook this responsibility.

Since the Auxiliary ladies channelled their fund-raising efforts into the Division, an amount of

\$17,000 was contributed - a truly magnificent effort. The association had proved an exhilarating one and a strong bond of friendship was formed between St John members and the Auxiliary. On the retirement of Sr Deveney, the ladies felt that the division was now well equipped and the Auxiliary closed.

Sr Deveney was interested in all facets of training and her active service with the Brigade included the following:-

Instructed Home Nursing (Patient Care) and First Aid classes.

Adjudicated for Competitions at District, Corps and Divisional levels.

Organised training weekends for members of No. 6 Corps.

Organised Training Day at Mornington.

Organised VFL Park First Aid coverage.

Organised with District Officer Max McLachlan First Aid coverage for International World Bowls at Frankston.

VFL PARK

Since VFL Park was opened as a venue for League football matches 14 years ago, Sr Deveney has attended each year, originally on a monthly basis but, as many problems had to be dealt with when public stands were being erected, she found it necessary to be present each week. Until First Aid rooms were available it was essential that suitable accommodation be provided for staff to work in to enable adequate patient care to be given to casualties. As no storage space was available all equipment and materials required for the duty had to be brought by St John personnel and the presence of Sr Deveney was needed in sorting out and allocating duty posts and equipment.

VFL Park was a duty shared by No. 5 and No. 6 Corps, with each Corps providing an equal amount of equipment. Whilst VFL Park was being developed the duty was a difficult one but, in

sharing and overcoming problems, Brigade personnel worked well together as a team and long and lasting friendships were made and are cherished.

It is to the credit of Sr Deveney that VFL Park facilities are so good, that personnel are well trained and the duty so well organised it is now a very smooth operation. Her dedication, energy and ability, to say nothing of her generous hospitality, helped bring this duty to its present high standard of efficiency.

Other duties attended by Sr Deveney were -

Moomba Parade

Pop Concerts at many venues

Sandown Car Races

“Big M” Fun Run

Royal Agricultural Show

Special events when requested

Sr Deveney was blessed with a good sense of humour and one or two incidents associated with St John duties stand out vividly in her memory. The very first duty she accepted was as First Aider at a Gymkhana at which a great number of horses would be utilised. The event was to be held on a large property and, seeing that three or four tents had been erected, she expected that one would naturally be for First Aid purposes. On investigation, however, each tent was found to be occupied and enquiries regarding a First Aid area brought the suggestion that she use the shade of one of the many large trees on the property. This she did and, on moving her car there, set up a working area in the car boot, and threw a blanket on the ground. Enquiring where water could be obtained, someone thought there was a tap near a distant fence. Fortunately Sr. Deveney had included a large bucket in her gear, so off she set to locate the water supply.

On returning she found a casualty occupying the rug. The woman was breathing but not co-

ordinating and, as Sr Deveney had ascertained that the nearest line of communication was a telephone in a house the other side of the fence where the tap was, she felt rather apprehensive as the casualty appeared to be having a fit of some sort. On closer examination she was relieved to find that she had thrown the rug down over a nest of bull-ants and the angry ants were retaliating by biting the patient, arousing her to a state of consciousness.

* * * * *

At a football Finals Match at V.F.L. Park another incident occurred which caused Sr. Deveney to smile and created a mystery which remained unsolved for a Senior Officer of the Brigade.

It so happened that when a Nursing Cadet rostered for duty at the ground reported to Control for dress inspection, she was found to be wearing black stockings and was, therefore, incorrectly dressed. As she could not be permitted to go on duty at a First Aid Post and, as the only alternative was to return home, it was obvious that an unfortunate situation was developing. However, Sr. Deveney just happened to have brought a spare pair of grey stockings, so a smart change took place and a happy Nursing Cadet proceeded to her posting where she worked contentedly all day. No such peace of mind was felt by the Inspecting Officer who could not understand where the Nursing Cadet wearing black stockings was and who spent much of the time trying to unravel the mystery of the vanishing Nursing Cadet.

* * * * *

In addition to her St John work, Sr. Deveney has a number of associated activities and interests. Briefly they are –

(1) Pink Ladies – Hospital Auxiliary (10 years).

This group concerns itself with voluntary work for patients at the Frankston Hospital. It is a well-known fact that a worried patient takes longer to recover from an illness or operation and the Pink

Ladies, by attending to the personal needs of patients, whether young or old, provide a supportive therapeutical service to medical treatments. Nursing staff is also assisted as the group arrange and care for the flowers of patients, carry out errands, write letters, read to patients, and are ready with a sympathetic ear if a patient just wants to talk.

(2) Country Women's Association (C.W.A) (12 years).

Sr. Deveney originally joined for the purpose of learning handcrafts but enjoyed the companionship and interests of the association so much she has been a member for twelve years. During this time she held an executive position for six years and was elected President for the period 1984-1986. In recognition of her service, the State Government presented Sr. Deveney with a gold medallion commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Victoria.

(3) St. Andrew's Floral Group (11 years).

A great deal of personal satisfaction and pleasure has been received by Sr. Deveney from the flower arrangements, floral displays and support which this group gives to a charitable organisation. She has acted as Secretary for the 11 years she has been with the group.

(4) Road Safety Committee (5 years).

Being a representative of the Order of St John on this Committee until 1985 when she retired from active Brigade work, Sr. Deveney was then invited to join the Road Safety Committee as an independent member. This she was pleased to do and, with Dr. Bouvier of the Royal Children's Hospital, over a period of two years carried out a

research programme covering cycle accidents in sport and on streets and roads, paying special attention to B.M.X. bikes. Statistics were then submitted to Parliament by the Road Safety Committee which urged legislation to be passed to make the wearing of safety helmets compulsory when bicycles were ridden.

As part of Victoria's 150th Anniversary celebration, the City of Frankston expressed its gratitude to Committee members for services rendered to the community by presenting each one with a silver medallion, and the Organisation itself with a gold medallion.

(5) 150th Anniversary, Victoria (3½ years).

Helping to organise and prepare for Victoria's 150th Anniversary brought Sr. Deveney into contact with various associated activities, including the presentation of medallions to recipients for awards granted and this proved an extremely busy time for all concerned. Members of the Committee were to each receive a gold medallion at a special presentation by the City of Frankston, and an invitation has been issued for them to join the Committee for the Bi-Centennial celebrations.

From the information presented there is no doubt that Sr. Deveney is a person of high principles who applies herself whole-heartedly to projects from which communities usually benefit. Her interests proclaim sympathy and understanding of the needs of others and the expertise she so readily makes available is proof of her sincerity and dedication to humanitarian causes.

District Officer AT Macfarlane, K.St.J.

Alfred Trevor Macfarlane was born at Geelong on the 30th May 1917. Soon after the family moved to Macarthur, a country district situated approximately 33km south of Hamilton, Victoria.

Trevor spent the first 17 years of his life in this lovely country area as part of a stable, happy family which, though not richly endowed with the tangible items now so often expected of life, was

certainly rich in human relationships, love and understanding. Cars were rare in the area and the customary mode of travel was by horse and buggy. The school was situated 2.5 km away so Trevor travelled the distance daily on horseback.

It was at this school that he perhaps received the first stimulus to what later became such an important part of his life, for the Headmaster gave him some old books amongst which was a copy of "The Bushman's Friend" (as near as he can recall) by John Flynn of Flying Doctor fame. This book covered all eventualities for those in remote areas, including First Aid and Patient Care, and how to conduct a funeral service.

On completing his studies at the Primary School, reaching the Eighth Grade and obtaining a Merit Certificate, his parents arranged for Trevor to attend the Hamilton High School from 1930 to 1933, despite the fact that, at this time, the country was deeply into the depression years.

Although Hamilton was only 37 km away, it meant a 2 to 2½ hours horse and buggy trip each way and, as this was out of the question, Trevor was "boarded out" away from home, returning to his family every second weekend and holidays. This, too, created problems and brought out all the ingenuity a boy possessed as transport had to be obtained somehow. In Trevor's case, he memorised the registration numbers of all Macarthur cars and strolled the streets of Hamilton on Friday evenings until he found a driver who could take him home, often returning on Sunday with the Hamilton Priest who visited Macarthur to conduct services.

His education completed and with no employment available locally, in 1934 Trevor worked for a while with an uncle in Digby. About the middle of that year he came to Melbourne and stayed with an aunt while he endeavoured to obtain work. Job-hunting was a most disappointing and depressing experience for Trevor who, at 17 years of age, was eager to become self-supporting and independent. Although the job market demanded experience,

when would-be employers were confronted with proof of advanced educational qualities, a remark would invariably be made to the effect that "we can teach any applicant all he needs to know". Of course, the younger the age, the cheaper the wage.

Trevor's aunt evidently had some influence with the Manager of a nearby shirt and pyjama factory for she prevailed upon him to take Trevor on to learn cutting, at the princely salary of five shillings a week (48 hours). Trevor progressed rapidly and soon was earning fifteen shillings a week, thus enabling him to find lodgings closer to his place of employment.

Shortly after commencing work at the shirt and pyjama factory, his employer suggested that if Trevor would attend a First Aid course to enable him to be of help when the occasional minor accident happened at work, the firm would pay the five shillings course enrolment fee. Trevor accepted the offer and attended a First Aid course conducted by Bill Holden, Divisional Superintendent of the Melbourne St John Ambulance Brigade Division. This is when Trevor got "hooked" and, in 1985 was very pleased to tell that early employer, still an old friend, of his many years as an Officer on the District Staff of the Brigade and of his recent promotion to Knight of Grace in the Order. This proved a source of great pleasure and satisfaction to his friend.

The First Aid course of May 1935 was followed by a Home Nursing course in October and Medallion and Nursing Pendant in 1936.

As Mr Holden required members of his Division to have a higher standard than one First Aid course, it was not until the 19th May 1936 that Trevor formally enrolled in the St John Ambulance Brigade Overseas, Melbourne and Metropolitan Division, although he had attended some duties and functions wearing a Brigade armband.

Thoughts of war were increasing at this time and most of the Division enrolled as VADs receiving

the "King's Shilling" annually and allowing this to boost Divisional funds.

In December 1936 Trevor, along with many other uniformed members, attended a Voluntary Aid Detachment Inspection before Lady Huntingfield at Government House - this Parade later became the St John Ambulance Brigade Annual Inspection. He also attended a series of lectures and received training in "Gas Warfare" but, because of insufficient service, could not be presented with the special medal which was struck to officially recognise successful completion of this course.

Trevor attended a reception and several of the functions arranged in connection with the visit of Colonel Sleeman, Chief Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade Overseas. He also participated in a VAD/St John Training Camp at Broadmeadows Army Camp during the Australia Day weekend of 1939 where training was received in RAAMC duties and hospital tent erecting.

During this period Trevor was boarding in Middle Park and it was here that some of his friends introduced him to the Middle Park Surf Life Saving Club (rather a misnomer perhaps for a Bay Club). Trevor's swimming was only average so he became First Aider for the Club and started an association which was to extend over many years. He became a Committee member of the Middle Park Surf Life Saving Club.

The Club became involved in table tennis during the winter months, playing in the Victorian Table Tennis Association and the Melbourne Suburban Beaches Table Tennis Competitions. Trevor played in competitions arranged by both organisations and, in 1939, won the Victorian Amateur Swimming Association's Table Tennis Championship. He was most surprised when, in 1946, the trophy eventually caught up with him.

Trevor's mother was not at all keen for her only son to enlist for military service when war was declared in September 1939, so a small deception was evolved and it was implied that, as a VAD,

Trevor was called up for home service. He served with the 5 Casualty Clearing Station RAAMC at the Quarantine Station Cottage, Portsea during October and November and at what is now the Lord Mayor's Children's Camp, Queenscliff from January to March 1940. Many training camps and the two forts were set up along the coastline.

On the 31st May 1940, to the background of the Dunkirk evacuation, Trevor enlisted in the AIF. He joined the 4 AGH (nominally a 600 bed hospital) at Puckapunyal where he underwent recruit training. As the "Pucka Throat" epidemic then broke out, his unit took over the Camp Hospital which was enlarged by the addition of tented wards. Here members of the unit gained basic nursing skills and, over several very busy months, learnt the management of infectious disease cases. Trevor was one of a group of Nursing Orderlies detached in August for two weeks experience in the wards and as observers in the Operating Theatre, at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. Need it be mentioned that the boys had a ball in Melbourne in off duty times!

The Camp Hospital was handed over in the latter part of 1940 and, after enjoying final leave, Trevor's unit sailed in the "Mauritania" on New Year's Eve, spending a brief period of leave at Fremantle. The memory lingers on to this day of thousands of male voices singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "Now is the Hour" as deck concerts and sing songs concluded.

Though planned to operate at Tel El Kebir (near Alexandria) the progress of the war caused plans for the 2/4 AGH to be altered and the Unit was ordered to take over a former Italian Hospital at Barce - a town beyond Benghazi. To do this, they embarked on the 28th February, 1941 on a 1500 ton ship which Trevor was intrigued to find was named the "Knight of Malta". What should have been an 18-hour trip became a nightmare as a severe storm developed in which it was rumoured the escorting sloop had been lost. Much of the ship's furniture, outside steps, and all but one lifeboat were wrecked and, in the darkness of early morning on the 3rd

March the ship ran aground near Bardia. With daylight it was found they were close to the shore in the only sandy bay for miles in either direction so, using the one serviceable lifeboat and taking only what would fit into pockets, the Unit disembarked. The men walked 23 km across the desert to the Bardia - Tobruk Road where the British arranged transport, provided their first decent meal for three days, and gave up their billets so the men could enjoy a sound sleep.

To salvage hospital equipment and personal gear from the wreck, all doors and mattresses were taken from the ship to make a track over the sand hills to enable the trucks to move closer for loading purposes. Trevor was able to salvage a long pennant carrying the ship's name and her certificate of registration at Lloyds, in addition to his personal gear.

After operating for a short time in Barce the end of March saw the rapid retreat of the Allies to Mersa Matruh, the Australian 9th Division with British and Indian troops being left to retain Tobruk. The 2/4 AGH, which now had its Nursing Sisters and Physiotherapists back on its Establishment, took over the Italian Barracks in the centre of the town for a hospital. Much captured medical and surgical equipment was gained and later proved invaluable to the Unit. The siege proper began on the 6th April and, as the area was considered a dangerous zone, the authorities ordered Army Nursing Sisters and Physiotherapists to be evacuated. This meant that, overnight, male members of the Unit progressed from "Bottle Orderlies" to "Nursing Sisters" and some became "Theatre Sisters". The bed state at one stage rose to 1100.

The hospital was close to an area subjected to heavy bombing so a tented Medical Section was established on the beach away from the town. The Surgical Section, POW wards and Operating Theatre remained in the Barracks.

Despite being identified by large and prominently displayed red crosses, on the 10th April the two hospitals were deliberately bombed. This caused a

loss of 4 staff and 32 patients, after which the tented wards were dug in more than one metre.

A fine Theatre team quickly developed and following statistics are a proud record of achievement by the Unit:-

Heaviest day : 108 operations in 8 hours

Heaviest month : 600 operations

April – September : 2650 operations

Examinations : 34,400 patients

Admissions : 13,500 patients

Evacuations : Approximately 8,000

Deaths : 234

Trevor "scrubbed" for the first time early in May and, for the remainder of the war spent much of his time in the Theatre. Dress for Operating Theatre - shorts and boots. Caps, masks, gowns, and gloves were reserved for head, chest and abdominal surgery.

Operations were occasionally done under the X-Ray screen which was quite a fascinating experience. This unsafe procedure was accepted on the basis that the troops were taking high risks and the Theatre staff could do no less to treat them.

During a scrounging trip around the town, Trevor acquired a sewing machine and, as a result of his trade experience, was able to get it working. This enabled an additional supply of theatre caps to be made from the hospital's lint supplies.

The hospital received more than 60 bombs from 19 incidents and was in extreme shellfire range, with a few near misses from shells. Trevor's luckiest escape was when a 500 pound (250kg) bomb penetrated the roof of the sleeping quarters about 2 metres from where he was sleeping. Although the bomb was a dud, Trevor recorded the fastest run of his life.

On leaving Tobruk in October Trevor travelled on "HMAS Napier" and, for the past 40 years, has

been the First Aid man for the annual picnic of the "N Class" Destroyers, of which she was one.

In November he was one of an advance party sent to take over the 60th British Hospital in Jerusalem and it was here that he first worked in the Plastic Surgery Ward. This proved very challenging nursing and demanded the very best attention. The free and easy ways of the Australians who were accustomed to working as an all male unit were the despair of the English Matron who was happy to "march out" with her orderlies before they became like the undisciplined "colonials".

Jerusalem experienced its first white Christmas for twenty years while they were there and a happy memory of this time was Trevor leading the Unit Table Tennis Team to a good win over the 2/6 AGH - the self - styled "Table Tennis Kings of Gaza Ridge". The match was played in the former Kaiser's Palace.

The Hospital next served in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) as a Japanese invasion was anticipated there. When this threat ended the Unit returned to Australia and set up a hospital at Redbank (near Brisbane). From here, Trevor enjoyed the luxury of travelling on the brilliantly lit Hospital Ship "Manunda" to New Guinea to bring back wounded and sick men from the Milne Bay fighting. On returning to the 2/4 AGH he found that, in common with other 600 and 1200 bed Hospitals, members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service had been taken on strength so that experienced "A" class male personnel could be released to forward mobile duties. Trevor was with a group which established a hospital near Townsville where, in addition to his Theatre work, he operated the Plaster Theatre and gained a little experience in X-ray.

In providing entertainment for the patients, Trevor became involved in arranging for concert parties to visit the hospital. He and another member of the Unit also provided a debate on the Referendum for "Alteration of the Australian Constitution" and felt personally satisfied that the patients were better informed than most as they came to hear the

"mugs" whereas, if politicians had been taking part, most would have stayed away from the debate.

At the LHQ (AAMC) School at "Ravenswood", Ivanhoe, Victoria, Trevor attended a course heavily orientated to records, communications and practical administration. A great deal of drill was also included and these skills later provided the basis for the Officer Training Course of the St John Ambulance Brigade and many of his other Brigade activities.

January 1945 and Trevor was at Rocky Creek on the Atherton Tableland with the 2/2 AGH. He was soon in the Theatre again and shortly assembling the equipment for a "Forward Operating Team" to be led by the former Adjutant of the 2/4 AGH. The Team included another Surgeon, Trevor and another Operating Room Assistant, plus a Batman/General Duties man, and was to be attached to a Field Ambulance where needed.

At Morotai they joined the convoy for the Balikpapan invasion where the Theatre was an 18ft x 27 ft tent (5.5 x 8.5m) with a 12 ft x 14 ft (4 x 4.5m) tent as the Autoclave and Sterilising tent. They scrounged timber for the floor and roughed up trestles on which the Furley stretchers were placed for the operation.

"Cease Fire" was announced on the 10th August 1945 and one of the last operations Trevor assisted with at Balikpapan was on a former school mate of the Hamilton High School, unhappily not successful.

Two emotive memories of Balikpapan. The Army Field Pictures with a Claudette Colbert film opening with the theme "Till We Meet Again" with the voices of hundreds of men softly joining in, rising to a heartfelt rendering of that tune, and the Gracie Fields Concert, with a high hill for the crowd (as at Sunbury), the thousands present joining in the singing of nostalgic hits.

Awaiting demobilisation, at Lae (New Guinea), Trevor assisted with clean up and elective surgery

and also took advantage of the Army Education Service Courses to study Bookkeeping and Public Speaking, both of which have no doubt been of great service in his St John and other activities.

Following his discharge from the Army, he arrived at Macarthur to find his home town suffering the effects of flooding and, to get to his family, he had to wade through knee deep water covering the bridges of three creeks.

Trevor resumed work at his former place of employment and also continued with his St John Ambulance Brigade service by joining the wartime-formed South Melbourne Division which had taken over the duties around the Albert Park Lake - a regular duty for Trevor prior to enlistment.

Immediately after the war, Nursing Registration was made available to selected personnel, on the recommendation of their Colonel that their service experience would make them suitable for it. Trevor was accepted in February 1947, with four years in which to take Finals to make the classification permanent but, as the opportunities and salary available for men at this time were very limited, he reluctantly decided to stay in the "Rag Trade" where he is still working as Designer-Pattern maker.

In 1962, whilst working for the Fler (furniture) design and development team, Trevor was sponsored for an Industrial Supervision Course to the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. This also made its contribution to the development of the Officer Training Course of St John.

Trevor again became involved with the Beach Club and served a term as President. He also rejoined his school group. About the same time he met up again with a former school mate, Frank Crean, who was the Labor Member for the area and for some years Trevor was Secretary for the Albert Park ALP Branch. He was made a Commissioner for taking Declarations and Affidavits and still functions in this capacity.

For three very satisfying years, Trevor acted as First Aider for the South Melbourne Seconds Football Club, travelling everywhere with them.

However, on moving to Preston in 1949, he left behind all his activities with the exception of his St John involvement, competing regularly with the South Melbourne team in competitions until he was promoted to Corps Sergeant Major in 1951. Mr Dymond, then Superintendent of the Division, encouraged his members to become blood donors and, until phased out in 1983 by the age limit, Trevor gave 107 blood donations.

Along with Keith Evans and the late Val Young, Trevor became interested in a plan to involve the St John Ambulance Brigade with the Country Fire Authority. This concerned the Toolern Vale area and an exercise was held at the Moonee Valley Race Course. Obviously this was the forerunner of what has now developed into the State Emergency Service, but the timing was not right and, for many years, the idea remained dormant until revived by District Superintendent Max Phelan, assisted by the late Harry Woodall.

The Rescue Service was a stimulating, exciting section of St John and the Brigade was promoted to probably its highest public image by this Service. Trevor was one of a team of Control Officers and became heavily involved in the training programme.

When Mobile Nursing was brought into being by Mrs Bobbie Davenport and the Ormond Nursing Division, this support provided the greatest stimulus to additional training to raise the standard of work beyond the then accepted levels. Trevor became very active in the training of Mobile Nursing personnel and, as part of the fun at one of the Benalla Camps, was invested as "Matron" - his identity card listed him as "Officer in Charge, Field Hospitals Victoria" and it was in this capacity he acted at the Sunbury Pop Festivals from 1972 until 1975.

From the Rescue and Mobile Nursing Training Camps stemmed the Monash University Training Weekends which, in turn, flowed on to the Training Committee and the Waverley Police Academy Lecture and Practical Weekends.

Awards/Promotions :

1947 Awarded Service Medal of the Order
1977 Awarded Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal
1982 Awarded Seventh Bar to Service Medal of the Order
1966 Admitted to Order as Serving Brother
1971 Promoted in Order to Officer Brother
1977 Promoted in Order to Commander Brother
1984 Promoted in Order to Knight of Grace
1962 Promoted to District Sergeant Major
1967 Promoted to District Officer Grade IV
1968 Promoted to District Officer Grade III
1970 Promoted to District Officer Grade II
1974 Acted for some months as Deputy District Superintendent when Major R Green was ill, necessitating his temporary leave from that appointment.

During this period Trevor introduced the Brigade Calendar - an activity which he still controls - and the present format of the Brigade Directory wherein the whole Corps is integrated.

Activities:

In 1965 Trevor approached the Commissioner, Dr Douglas Donald, with a request that Victoria District should have a Colour - a request which was readily granted. A Parade was held on the 4th March 1967 coinciding with the visit of the Commissioner-in-Chief Rear-Admiral Royer Dick, for the presentation and consecration of the Colour at a Drumhead Service at Government House. Trevor was responsible for arranging the ceremonial for this Parade, for training the St John Ambulance Brigade Cadet Drum Band for the Piling of Drums, and for the participation of the St John Ambulance Brigade Band. It has been Trevor's responsibility ever since to maintain a

Colour Party for occasions such as Annual Church Parades, Government House Inspections, and whenever there is need for the Colour to be paraded.

In 1967 a Parade was arranged for the then No 6 Corps at the Northcote Town Hall for the Dedication of Seven Flags, again at a Drumhead Service with participation by the Cadet Drum Band and The Rats of Tobruk Memorial Highland Pipe Band.

During this same year Trevor was involved in arrangements for the Official Opening of the Douglas Donald Training Camp, was on its Management Committee for many years and, together with many other Brigade members, had been on many "Working Bees" during its construction.

He has also been involved with ceremonies connected with the Dedication of many Divisional Halls and Vehicles.

Also in 1967, the first of the assessed Officer Training Courses was conducted, Jock Berry, Bruce and Bobbie Davenport and Trevor being the principal lecturers and assessors, with various persons from time to time as one-off participants. The OTC was enthusiastically received and has been one of the most satisfying parts of Trevor's Brigade life. Until 1982 when Dr G Hasking took over, Trevor was responsible for running the OTC. He still does some lecturing and continues service with the assessing team.

Courses for Secretaries and Treasurers lapsed from a lack of participants, as also did a Course for indoctrinating Doctors and Registered Nurses into the Brigade.

Trevor found one of the disadvantages of being on District staff was being deprived of the purpose for which he joined the Brigade, ie., the thinking, talking and applying First Aid and the caring for patients. In his case this was remedied by his long involvement with Rescue and Mobile Nursing

training, and the most stimulating of all were the years spent with the Research Group. Also, until his promotion to Corps Sergeant Major in 1951, Trevor had been active in competition participation so naturally gravitated to the Competition Committee where he has been involved ever since, including many years as Manager.

Another duty for which Trevor is responsible is the training of St John Ambulance Brigade groups who march in Moomba Processions and, more recently, in the 1983 St John Centenary Parade and the Combined Emergency Services Parade of 1985.

He had a considerable input to the Brigade Manual of Drill and Instruction in 1970 and, in 1983 submitted indepth criticism and suggested amendments to the Inservice Training Manual. In 1985 he made similar submissions regarding Regulations General and Dress.

Highlights

Trevor was proud to be amongst the St John personnel who provided the Honour Guard for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Exhibition Building on her first visit to Australia in 1954.

His St John experience included a couple of years attached to the Cadet group of District Officers and many years on Inspections, both of which made him fully aware of what the Brigade in general did for the community.

Another "high" was duty for the Olympic Games in 1956 - particularly as he was on the arena for the Opening and Closing ceremonies.

Outside Activities:

In 1947 the 2/4 A.G.H. commenced Reunions on Anzac Day and participated in a Shrine Pilgrimage on the Sunday nearest the date of the first bombing of the Tobruk Hospital. Trevor has for many years been a Committee member of this group, served two years as President and since 1983 has been its Secretary/Treasurer. Funds received from the publication of the unit's history have been made

available to the Veterans Affairs Department (Repatriation Hospital, Heidelberg) to promote a 2/4th Memorial Seminar at that Hospital.

His sons becoming interested in the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Highland Pipe Band in 1960, Trevor for many years acted as Master of Ceremonies at the Social/Dances conducted by the Band. He also acted in a similar capacity for the Scottish Ex-Service Association and the Mitcham and Box Hill Pipe Bands over a period of many years. Perhaps this is the source of his parade ground voice!

Trevor had a long involvement with the Parents' Association of the Sylvester Grove Primary School, and later with the Parents' Association of Preston East Technical School, for many years being President. Fund raising activities included regular dances at the school from which the Band, which so delighted everyone at the St John Ambulance Centenary Ball in 1983, was produced. Until the format of School Councils changed when, no longer being a parent of a pupil he became ineligible, Trevor was for many years on the School Council, during which time he also served a term as President.

The Scout and Guide Movements have been assisted by him over many years with their First Aid Badges and more recently with C.P.R. lectures and practical demonstrations. Trevor has also been Guest Speaker to Church and other community groups.

During the past ten years Trevor has participated in Scottish Country Dancing with a very friendly group and has really enjoyed this happy form of aerobics. He became President of the group for a time and, over the latter years, was a Delegate to the Royal Scottish Country-Dance Society.

Christmas 1975 Trevor and his family were busy packing for a holiday at Mt Buffalo when the late Mr Woodall telephoned to advise that there was a possibility members of the Brigade may be needed in Darwin following Cyclone Tracy. Trevor included an alternative packing to cover this

contingency but it was not necessary as no call was received.

New Year's Eve brought news of a missing man and Trevor volunteered to join the search party. With the Park Rangers he set out on the 1st January and found an ex-member of St John, then with the Victorian Emergency Services, who had become detached from his group. On the 2nd January, Trevor went out with the Police Search and Rescue Group and they located the missing man, a Mr Malina, who had suffered broken ribs and was not in the best condition. He walked for a while until they were met by another Police Search and Rescue Group which had a Neil Robertson stretcher, but this was most unsuitable for a carry in these conditions. However two small trees were broken down to extend the carry bars to which the stretcher was roped, the Police being happy to leave this task to Trevor's expertise. Police vehicles and a Doctor met the party at the Buckland Valley, after which the rescue group returned to the Chalet in a very happy state of mind.

Trevor and his wife Enid enjoyed a wonderful holiday in England, Wales and Scotland in 1984, being accommodated at the St John House Club and, naturally, spending some time at Clerkenwell to relish the early history of St John.

In Melbourne they were fortunate to discover, and were able to purchase, four teaspoons of the second last Grand Master (Emmanuel De Rohan) on Malta 1776, citing him as Master of the Hospital and the Holy Sepulchre of Hierusalem (Jerusalem). They also discovered a medal of the "St John A.A., the Lady Brassey Ambulance Station 1/7/87" with a red cross and, on the reverse side the inscription, *Williamstown Victoria T.J.Ivy Superintendent.*

Trevor has certainly provided a great deal of service to the community and his wide range of interests has given him a broad experience of people generally. His fifty years of service in St John has provided him with many memorable occasions and this record of his life and interests clearly showed how his school life, army service, employment, other community activities and his St John role were intertwined. It is with gratitude that he looks back on the wonderful friends he made and he realises his good fortune in having the loyal support of his family as they accepted his activities as a worthwhile and necessary part of his life.

The foregoing record is a tribute to a man of sincere character and high principles who has given so much of himself, his time and his knowledge in the service of others.

Mr C.L. (Les) Kuffer, M.B.E., S.B.St.J.

The late Mr C.L. (Les) Kuffer, by his service to the community, dedication to the work of the St John Ambulance Brigade, and his natural kindness, forged a place for himself in the hearts of the people of Maryborough, Victoria. Even to this day (1986), his memory is cherished and his service on behalf of the Maryborough St John Ambulance Brigade Division is an inspiration to its members today.

Local newspapers have written of certain aspects of Les Kuffer's life and these articles are reproduced hereunder for all to share.

Local publication January 1956 headed 'OPINION'

Now and again we find, woven through many years of a town's history, the good deeds of one man who has become respected, even beloved, by all who know him. Maryborough is fortunate that such a man lives in this town.

A quiet, unassuming fellow, most of his good deeds are not well known, but in one capacity he is often forced to do good in public. Thus he has become widely recognised as a man of worth.

On Tuesday Sir Dallas Brooks will invest this man with the King's tribute and all Maryborough will go in spirit to Government House to pay honour to a simple citizen - Les Kuffer.

Early in life Les must have been inspired by the story of the Good Samaritan, for he has never been known to pass by anyone who needed help.

Good men are often surrounded by a sanctimonious atmosphere which repels, but Les is a man's man, simple, down to earth and quietly sincere.

He asks no thanks, regards all he does as a duty and as nothing out of the ordinary. He shuns publicity, he is merely doing his First Aid work.

Usually we do not acknowledge a man's good deeds until he is dead. Then we tend to be rather maudlin about them.

Les Kuffer is very much alive and always on the spot. A railway colleague said today: "When anyone is hurt, Les just seems to appear from nowhere."

It is no exaggeration to say that no man is more worthy of being "A Serving Brother of St John."

In every sphere of sport, at every public gathering, at work, and in Church circles everyone feels happier when they see the quiet, small figure of Les Kuffer.

Maryborough should do something to give Les recognition of the respect and affection in which he is held. Not only has the King honoured him, he has also honoured the town. Our tribute should also be paid.

The Maryborough "Advertiser", 4th January 1956

"Queen Honours Local Citizen... eventful weekend for CL Kuffer"

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has seen fit to honour Mr C L Kuffer of Inkerman Street, with the conferring of the Order of Member of the British Empire (MBE). It has been conferred because of his lifetime activities in the service of others in ambulance and First Aid work and in recognition of his services as instructor during the last war.

The New Year weekend has proved an eventful one for Mr Kuffer. On Saturday night railwaymen and citizens gathered for a farewell function in the VRI Hall to mark his retirement after 48 years service with the Railway Department.

A tribute to the esteem in which Mr Kuffer is held with the Railway Department was the presence of four sectional supervisors from Melbourne for the occasion. With railway men retiring every day from the Department, this is an unusual procedure.

Maryborough citizens have joined wholeheartedly in offering congratulations to the genial Les, Maryborough's first resident citizen to be included in the Honours List.

During the Highland Sports on Monday he received the official congratulations of the Highland Society. He was again the officer in charge of First Aid for the sports.

Mr Kuffer has served Maryborough in this capacity as an ambulance officer for over 40 years. His presence with his kit is part and parcel of every public and sports gathering in the district.

Among the many telegrams received within a few hours of the publication of the citation were messages from football clubs to whose members he has rendered assistance.

Whole family serve:

The whole Kuffer family are to the fore in service for others and some of their qualifications may be mentioned.

Apart from Mr Kuffer's knowledge and experience, Mrs. Kuffer is a trained nurse. Son Frank is an officer with St John Ambulance in Melbourne and served in No 1 Air Ambulance in the Middle East during the war. Frank's wife is a nurse (they met during casualty work at Royal Melbourne Hospital). She also served as a nursing sister with the RAAF. Daughter Lorna is a trained nurse and her husband, Geoff, served with the Field Ambulance during the war. Daughter Dorothy

trained with the VAD and received her proficiency certificate.

Les the main casualty

As First Aid man for the sports, Les treated several minor sprains and one fainting, but suffered himself from the hand-shaking of well-wishers. His right hand required attention for sprain and strain. It was given by Nurse Wood (Mrs.Kuffer). All that remains now is treatment for a sore ear and telephone elbow as phone calls continue to block line 333.

Among those to send congratulatory messages were the Prime Minister, Mr R.G. Menzies; the Victorian Premier, Mr E Bolte; and the secretary to the Premier's Department, Mr Jungwirth.

Another activity of Mr Kuffer has been related to temperance work in Maryborough. He has been secretary of the Adult IOR lodge for over 30 years and has been responsible for the organisation of the junior section also. At one time he was also secretary of the Railway Self Denial Fund which was a local "Friendly Society" organisation which assisted its members with sick pay and other benefits.

"The Advertiser" 9th January 1956:

'NO HONOUR MORE RICHLY DESERVED'-
"Scribe" on Les Kuffer's MBE

No honour has been more richly deserved than that conferred on Mr Les Kuffer by Her Majesty the Queen in the New Year honours. He became a Member of the British Empire for, officially, his services to the Red Cross and ambulance work, but more correctly to his legion of friends, for his work in the interests of humanity. Wherever there has been sick and suffering Les Kuffer has been found serving the people, always with efficiency, always without thought of personal reward. It is fitting that he should be so recognised during his lifetime, because far too often it is not until death that a person's true qualities are appreciated.

That infectious smile of Les Kuffer's was even more pronounced on New Year's Day. It had reason to be, because none more than Les himself recognises that the honour that has come his way is a tribute to his self-sacrifice and something to be shared with his family for their co-operation in making his life ambition to serve his fellow beings possible.

I have said at various times, and here repeat, that Les Kuffer would have made a brilliant doctor, because his natural ability and personality are important attributes to that profession. That, however, was not his good fortune, but what was not possible as a profession did not deter his natural bent, and so practically throughout his 65 years he applied himself diligently to a task that became a real labour of love.

Acquired for others

There was nothing selfish in the knowledge that Les Kuffer set out to acquire. He spent many hours many months and many years making himself proficient in ambulance work and First Aid generally. It was not, however, for himself, apart from the personal satisfaction of achieving an objective, but principally a desire that in an emergency he could be of useful service.

That much was reflected in the fact that throughout his career he rendered First Aid in many serious accidents, both in the Railways Department and outside. In this self-imposed capacity he has been a guide, philosopher and friend to many people, ably assisted by a wonderful co-operative wife, herself a trained nurse and another genial personality.

No SOS to the Kuffer home in sickness and suffering has been left unanswered. Frequently these came at night, at meal times and other inconvenient periods, but always there was a ready and cheerful response. There are numerous folk who have cause to be grateful for the Kuffer aid so generously and spontaneously given.

There, too, has been nothing partisan in Les Kuffer's First Aid work. It might be said that in the Railways Department it was part of his work, but even there it would have meant little but for his unbounded enthusiasm and determination to reach the top. His readiness to assist was perhaps best expressed in his work with football clubs. Officially he was always a servant of the Maryborough Club, but whether friend or foe, Les was invariably first on the spot to render a helping hand. So long as some person required assistance Les felt there was a job to do, and so he became respected as "the little man with the box" on whom anyone could depend for help with calm and enthusiastic efficiency. Outside clubs have shown appreciation of this gesture by letter and personal thanks. But Les' best consolation always has been the knowledge that he has been able to help some person in need.

The enthusiasm which Les has displayed in his work has been infused into the First Aid classes that he has conducted. But for that the success which crowned the Railways Ambulance Corps, which he conducted, would not have been possible.

State and Australian championships, apart from individual awards, are not easily achieved, but they came to the Maryborough Corps because of able leadership and inspiration. There has been a similar reflex in Red Cross and general First Aid classes, the high percentage of qualified pupils frequently evoking from the examiners - invariably medical men - praise for the "captain" of the ship. But again Les Kuffer's reward has been the success of his pupils rather than his own contribution. That he was made a Serving Brother of the Order of St John of Jerusalem was recognition by the authorities that results would not have been possible without ability at the top.

A Good Citizen

In other ways Les Kuffer has been a good citizen. His 65 years in Maryborough have been active ones. As a young man he played both football and cricket and was also a cyclist. He was a stalwart of the old Temperance Football Club as a player and secretary and was also secretary of the Wednesday afternoon Football Association of his day.

He competed at carnivals conducted by the Swimming Club. On many occasions Les figured as a water comedian, and he could sing a comic song on the concert platform with a great deal of distinction. In choir and church work he has been equally outstanding, while for something like a quarter of a century the IOR has known him as the most capable secretary ever. In the affairs of the Highland Society he has been a capable official.

His versatility has been further expressed by his many roles as Santa Claus at the hospital's annual Christmas effort. That has gone on for more than forty years in succession, and during that long period he has made a host of friends among the patients he has met during his hospital visits.

Les Kuffer is still full of vigour to enjoy his new honour. He has retired from the railways service after forty-eight years, but time is not likely to hang heavily on his hands. If I am any judge of his make-up he will endeavour, if such be possible, to render even greater service to Maryborough and its people.

He is not likely to leave the town, because Maryborough would be a strange place without him. Such citizens as he can ill be spared, for already he has qualified as Longfellow speaks:
*"Something attempted, something done,
 Has earned a night's repose".*

Miss Thelma C.E. Peverill, D.St.J.

Born into a family with a history dating back to the reign of William the Conqueror, Thelma Charlotte Elizabeth Peverill (known to most people as “Pev”) inherited many valuable qualities, her courage and determination no doubt being passed down from Cornish ancestors, as was also a certain stubborn streak which surfaced from time to time.

Most of her formative childhood years were spent in the care of her paternal grandparents who, with those of their family still at home (a son and four daughters) lived on their farm at Corack East, Victoria, 36 kilometres from Birchip, in the Mallee area of the State. They knew well the red dust of Mallee storms which changed the colour of the earth and everything growing in it and penetrated every crevice or crack in buildings to stealthily seep into clothing, household equipment, furniture and food.

The work load of the farm was shared by members of the household and, despite the fact that she was only five or six years old, Pev was no exception to this arrangement. Her chores included feeding the chooks, gathering eggs, keeping water bowls for the dogs clean and full, helping to bring the cows in for milking and other odd jobs as they arose. Discipline in the household was strict and all jobs had to be well done.

School was conducted at Corack, approximately 9 kms from the farm and children from the district walked this distance daily, meeting up with each other along the way. There was no question of being driven to school, as is the custom in many families today. In those days it would have meant harnessing a horse to a buggy or cart and the loss of a considerable amount of farm work time for both the driver and the horse. This would have been uneconomical and was, therefore, unacceptable.

On Sundays the family drove into Corack to attend morning church service. It was customary for families to pack luncheon baskets and enjoy a picnic atmosphere at the conclusion of the service. This was perhaps the only regular occasion when families around the district were able to meet together to exchange news and catch up with local gossip. Along with other children Pev attended Sunday School in the afternoon while the older family members mixed with their friends. Country hospitality is well known for its generosity and it was quite commonplace for her grandparents to invite 20 or 30 people back to the farm for tea and a singsong round the organ afterwards. Many enjoyable evenings of fun and entertainment ensued.

Country life made Pev acutely aware of animals, birds, trees, flowers and the variations of nature. As she matured, wherever she dwelt, she quickly established a garden and her “green fingers” ensured growth and beautiful blooms. Pev also had a way with animals and birds, especially if they were sick or hurt. They trusted her implicitly and many cats, dogs and birds have gained a second chance of life as a result of her ministrations.

Her education was completed at the Methodist Ladies’ College in Melbourne and as she was physically very active, it was here that she played hockey, tennis, basketball, and joined in most other sports. On completion of her MLC tuition, Pev. remained in the city.

She was always motivated by a desire to ‘prove’ herself to members of her family and as her childhood had taught her to be independent, it was not long before she decided to earn her own living. Jobs were not easy to obtain and advertisements in the newspapers usually attracted a great many applicants, each person hoping to be selected.

Eventually Pev was accepted for a position and was introduced to the “rag” trade where she was employed as a machinist for 11½ years.

It was during this period of her life that she joined the Young Women’s Christian’ Association (YWCA) which had its own building in Russell Street, Melbourne, and catered for the needs of young women. She enjoyed the companionship of other girls in many activities and deciding to enrol as a student for First Aid tuition, it was here that Pev began a long association with the Order of St John. When a Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade was formed at the YWCA, she was one of its early members.

As war clouds gathered over Europe, prior to the outbreak of World War II, Pev completed courses and qualified in Air Raid Precautions and Gas Warfare. As a member of the YWCA Voluntary Aid Detachment which had been formed, she also received nursing training at some of Melbourne’s Public Hospitals and attended many lectures given by prominent members of the medical profession.

When female volunteers were sought for service in World War II Pev submitted her name and credentials at the earliest opportunity, opting first of all to join the WAAAF (Air Force). Having passed a rigorous medical examination and being declared A1, she tired of waiting for a callup by the Air Force and applied to the Army for service. After again passing the medical and other tests she was drafted, as a VAD, into the medical section of the Army Services. Her Air Force callup letter arrived the following day but, too late, she was already in the Army.

Following her enlistment as a VAD on the 1st November 1941 Pev became a member of the second draft for duty in the Middle East. The day the draft was to move out from “Stonnington” in Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn - a pre-embarkment depot - Japan declared war against the western powers and the entire war scene changed. Movements for the Middle East draft were cancelled and its members were given temporary

postings to other Units in Victoria. Pev was posted to the 106 Australian General Hospital, Bonegilla where she worked in Casualty and the wards as a Nursing Orderly.

An outbreak of Mumps in the enormous Army Camp adjacent to the hospital caused an accommodation problem for the Isolation Ward, which already had many cases which had to be segregated from the other wards, so tents were erected alongside it. Pev and another senior VAD shared the work in “Isolation” and they were kept on the run, literally, for quite some time. When the weather became cold and wet, nursing patients under canvas was not easy as there was no shelter between the tents and the permanent ward, but it was a great challenge and as patients improved in health, Pev and her co-worker felt much personal satisfaction.

As girls who had enlisted as members of Voluntary Aid Detachments were now fulfilling full-time active service, during 1942, authorities of the Defence Department decided to change the name of the service for those so employed from VADs to the Australian Army Medical Women’s Service (AAMWS). The change-over was complete and new enlistment documents had to be submitted if members wished to remain on full-time active service. Uniforms changed from blue to khaki and World War III almost started as the girls objected strongly to their khaki outfits. As time passed it was accepted that khaki was more practical than blue, especially for travelling, but the girls never really forgave the Army authorities for depriving them of their original uniforms.

During the 4½ years Pev was in the Army she fulfilled responsibilities as Quartermaster Sergeant at Women’s Training Camps; as a Nursing Orderly at 106 AGH and later with the 2/9 AGH in New Guinea and Morotai, working for a time at each hospital in the Operating Theatre. In New Guinea she assisted in the Diet Kitchen with the preparation of special diets for very sick patients.

As mentioned earlier, one of the characteristics of most members of the Peverill clan was “stubbornness” and Pev certainly had her share of it. This was proved by an incident which occurred at a Women’s Training Camp where she was Quartermaster Sergeant, responsible for all stores and equipment. Requisitions for supplies had to be rendered to the Quartermaster of a large adjoining military camp. Pev found it frustrating and annoying when ordered quantities of many items were reduced including, of all things, that very essential item - toilet paper. As Pev had to bear the brunt of complaints from her own Unit members when supplies ran out, and as messages to the Quartermaster were ignored, she decided that enough was enough and it was time to make a more direct approach. So she sat down and laboriously counted the number of sheets of paper on a toilet roll, ascertained the number of girls in the Unit and submitted her findings to the QM who, it was proved, had allowed only two sheets of paper per person daily. Whether it was her practical approach to the problem, her perseverance, or maybe that the QM just enjoyed a laugh but, from that time, no order Pev submitted was amended in any way whatsoever.

The sticky black mud of New Guinea has to be seen to be believed and as the tents of the AAMWS were set in rows around a steep hill, when it rained and it came down in torrents at 4.00PM each day in the wet season, it was virtually impossible to walk to the Mess Hut perched on the summit or to climb the path from the laundry and ablution blocks at the bottom of the hill to the ledge where your tent was located.

Pev decided life could be improved in her area so, despite the heavy, tropical climate, in her off-duty time, she dug and hacked out a series of steps in the path outside her tent, scrounging wood and materials to make a framework to give strength to her creation. At each side of the path she planted a flower garden, carrying the soil in a bucket from some distance away, and her frangi-pani zinnias, balsams and other plants were a joy to behold.

The 2/9 AGH was a 1200 bed tented hospital which could be extended to accommodate 1800 patients. At the height of the Kokoda Trail fighting, the hospital had 2200 patients, stretchers being placed underneath the beds of other patients.

Nursing Orderlies working overseas in tented wards faced many difficulties including climatic conditions, faulty or insufficient equipment and poor rations, but they coped extremely well, adapting quickly to change and the demands of the job. Pev enjoyed working in the wards and always felt a thrill when she learnt that a very ill patient had “turned the corner” and would recover.

While in the tropics many patients were victims of Scrub Typhus - a disease believed to be transmitted to humans by a mite which lived on rats. It was a very debilitating disease with high temperatures and complications, and demanded the very ultimate in nursing as complete rest was a must for these patients. Pev was ever on the lookout for the small ulcer-like sore, or eschar, which proved beyond doubt that Scrub Typhus was present, especially where a patient with a temperature had not been diagnosed specifically as a Scrub Typhus sufferer.

An incident occurred many months after Pev returned to civilian life and has remained in her memory throughout the years.

On boarding a tram in Camberwell to travel to her place of employment in the city, she was startled to hear a voice yell, “Nursie!” and to see a man rushing from the rear section of the tram towards her. He insisted that she accompany him to where his wife was seated and was introduced as the nurse who saved his life. To some extent he was probably right as Pev was the only member of the staff on that ward who refused to believe he was a malingerer, being quite convinced he was a Scrub Typhus victim. She was jubilant when, after a long time, she found a very tiny eschar and his condition was confirmed. From then on he was given the very special nursing necessary for Scrub Typhus patients and luckily, he recovered. To meet him

after such a long time and to witness his gratitude made that a memorable day for Pev.

After a period of leave and rehabilitation following service in New Guinea, the 2/9 AGH was posted to Morotai - a small island situated close to the equator. This was a Dutch possession and a coconut plantation, each tree removed having to be accounted and paid for by Australia. As a result, as few trees as possible were removed and the hospital wards and staff tents were set up amongst coconut trees. Falling fruit and palm branches were a constant danger and caused a number of deaths on the island.

Following discharge from the Army in April 1946 Pev was determined not to return to the "rag" trade and branched out into a variety of occupations. These covered a period of many years during which she was a Manageress of two business ventures; a Cashier; a Share Clerk and finally, a Clerk in the Workers' Compensation Department of a large Insurance Company. During her spare time, she completed a course of training and qualified as a Chiropodist. She also renewed her St John activities and became involved in the instruction of students in First Aid and Home Nursing classes.

Pev was invited by a group of successful students from one such class to join them in forming a Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade at Richmond and she accepted their offer. The year was 1952 and this was the beginning of a very happy and rewarding period of her life. The Richmond girls responded to her leadership and not only fulfilled many public duties, but also acceded to her desire for a team to enter the annual First Aid and Nursing Competitions. It meant a great deal more work and finding further time to train, but they did it and in 1953, won the team trophy at the Victorian State Championship Competitions, representing the State of Victoria in the Interstate Competitions held the following year. This performance was repeated in 1955 and justified all the effort put into perfecting their knowledge and skill.

On being promoted to Corps Officer in the Brigade, Pev realised that her close relationship with the Richmond Nursing Division would be affected, but was comforted in the knowledge that the Division would be in the very safe, capable hands of Mrs. Ella Shaw. She has always had a special feeling for Richmond and has followed the Division's progress with interest over the years. Personal contact with members has also been maintained and valued friendships have remained strong.

After carrying out the duties of a District Officer (Nursing) for several years, Pev was appointed District Superintendent (Nursing) to administer the Nursing Divisions of the Brigade in Victoria.

During the years she spent as a Corps Officer (N), District Officer (N), and District Superintendent (N), she firmly believed that it was part of her job to make herself available to Officers and members of Divisions as often as possible so that problems, suggestions, and other matters could be discussed. With that in mind, Pev endeavoured to visit as many Divisions as possible and as problems were dealt with promptly and serious difficulties frequently avoided, she felt her methods were successful.

Pev also felt responsible for the welfare of Nursing members of the Brigade at public duties and considered it her responsibility to personally inspect First Aid Posts and see at first hand the conditions under which the girls were required to work. A large duty such as the Moomba Parade meant walking the length of Swanston Street from its northernmost point to the Alexandra Gardens, calling in at each First Aid Post situated both sides of the processional route. Likewise with duties at League Football Finals Matches, her knowledge of conditions and problems was gained by personal visits.

One of Pev's most enjoyable tasks was acting as hostess to St John Ambulance Brigade (Nursing) representatives from other countries who, from time to time, visited Australia. It was for this purpose that she met Mrs. See, the Chief Officer

(Nursing) for Malaysia and despite the fact that they first missed each other by inches at a destined meeting place, they eventually sorted themselves out and met. Neither wore uniform and each laughed heartily and thoroughly enjoyed the joke when they confided in each other what they expected the other party to look like.

The Brigade made many things possible for Pev which she may not otherwise have achieved. Listing some occasions which came to mind she naturally started off with Royal Visitors to Victoria and the privilege she had of, in some instances meeting them, and at other times the advantage of a good, close-up position from which to see them. Over the years she recalled visits of the Queen Mother, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and his Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, and she will ever remember the Countess Mountbatten of Burma. Wherever possible she tried to include Nursing members of the Brigade at special functions as she felt it was a small, but well - deserved reward for the work they did and the time they gave in service for the Order of St John.

In 1976 Pev accepted the position of General Manager for the Australian Championship Competitions which were to be held in Melbourne and experienced all the frustration and fatigue associated with the job. Despite many anxious moments, the team of Officers and members who gave so much of their time and expertise to the task of setting up the complex and gave Pev tremendous support throughout, were able to share the elation and satisfaction of knowing a job well done at the close of a very successful competition.

In 1983, the centenary of the Order of St John was celebrated in Victoria and many overseas and interstate visitors came to Melbourne to attend special functions to honour the occasion, as well as to attend the Annual Meetings of Priory.

Many prominent visitors would be present at the Australian Championship Competitions and it was essential that this part of the programme be a smooth operation. In view of her past experience, Pev agreed to be Assistant Manager for the Competitions, District Officer Keith Evans being Manager. Although many problems had to be dealt with, these Championship Competitions were also very successful.

Lady Newman-Morris entertained and dispensed hospitality to invited guests, while Pev was responsible for the welfare of other members of their party on occasions when they could not all be together.

Arrangements for celebrating the centenary were exacting, but every section was well organised and the entire programme went without a hitch. Victorians could feel proud of their team effort and what it achieved.

When admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister and subsequently being promoted to Officer Sister, then to Commander Sister and finally, to a Dame of Grace, Pev not only felt proud of the honours accorded her, but also humble that she was a member of such an old - established Order with which so many fine people had been, and still were, associated. She was also very proud when, in recognition of the long service she had given to St John, she was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal which commemorated 25 years reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Pev felt privileged to serve from 1967 to 1976 as a member of the Council for the Order of St John in Victoria and as a member of the Centre Committee of the St John Ambulance Association, Victoria from 1974 to 1980, and fully appreciated the importance of sound administration.

In carrying out the responsibilities associated with her position, whether at Corps or District level, she invariably received spontaneous and willing co-operation and assistance from Officers and members of both the Senior and Cadet Sections of

the Brigade, and from the staff at St John Headquarters, which made her job much easier. Officers and members of the Nursing Section always gave her strong support, without which Pev felt she could not have fulfilled her administrative role in the Brigade with such personal satisfaction. She greatly appreciated the help and encouragement given to her at all times.

To Pev her 44 years as a member of St John proved stimulating, challenging, and interesting. She received great satisfaction when she was able to help others, whether at a duty or in her Brigade administrative capacity, and has many memories of happy times spent with Brigade friends. These are her treasures and she feels she has been richly rewarded for the service which she has given to the Order of St John.

District Officer (N) Mrs Massie (“Bobbie”) Davenport, CStJ

Mrs Massie (“Bobbie”) Davenport was born in South Wales. As five generations of her family had been associated with the Order of St John, firstly with the Association teaching First Aid, and later being actively engaged in Brigade work, it is not surprising that her life was strongly influenced by the Order. In fact, it could be assumed that she possibly inherited some of the spirit of St John from her forebears. There is no doubt whatsoever that St John involvement by members of the family had a marked influence on her early life. On her 11th birthday she joined the Brigade in Wales as a Cadet. As she matured in years, so also did her love for the Order and what it stood for. Her interest was captivated by its wonderful history, the challenges, which have been met, and its achievements throughout the ages. She became profoundly dedicated to the Order and devoted much of her life to its work and to promotion of its ideals.

In the United Kingdom members of the Brigade are held in very high esteem by people generally and officials and members of other organisations (transport and police for example) go out of their way to make things easier for them. The respect and courtesy spontaneously paid to Brigade members is remarkable. Members of St John are looked upon as very special people. The public generously supports the Brigade financially and, where the Ambulance Service for an area is not run by the Brigade, sister organisations such as Red

Cross provide substantial help. There is great rapport between the various Service organisations.

After arriving in Australia Bobbie decided to join a First Aid class and, as she was in a new country whose ways might be quite different from those in the UK, she did not disclose the fact that she had been associated with St John previously. The class of eight was held in the McKinnon Progress Hall and, following the examination, Bobbie and another lady joined the Brighton Nursing Division, with Miss Book (Judge Book’s sister) as Divisional Superintendent, and Miss Brown, Divisional Officer. One man joined the Brighton Ambulance Division of which Mr Buchanan was Divisional Superintendent. This was in 1959.

Having so recently left the warm, friendly atmosphere of the Brigade in the UK, it was difficult for Bobbie to comprehend the animosity and unfriendly attitudes which were then so obvious between the Ambulance and Nursing sections of the Brigade here. Every Division seemed to be an island unto itself, losing sight of the fact that they were all part of the Order of St John.

The Brighton Ambulance and Nursing Divisions typified the antagonism which existed throughout the Brigade at that time and the situation there was aggravated by the fact that the Ambulance members used the hall for their meetings while the

women of the Nursing Division were relegated to the cloakroom.

The apparent disunity caused Bobbie great concern and, in an effort to break down a few barriers, she enquired whether perhaps on one night a month they could share a programme of practical work, or a lecture, or maybe just have supper together. This suggestion wasn't approved or acted upon.

Bobbie probably unintentionally caused quite a stir in the Division when, as was the custom in the UK, she wore uniform to the Brigade meeting. She was the only one to do so.

At Mr Buchanan's request, and with Miss Book's permission, Bobbie assisted with the practical work of a small class organised by Mr Buchanan. At its conclusion, she suggested that he run another class, advertising it as widely as possible. He was reluctant to undertake the responsibility for this and was happy to leave promotion of the class in Bobbie's hands. 102 students enrolled and Dr Fisher, whom Bobbie knew, agreed to give the lectures. It was a very successful class and Miss Book and some of her ladies were invited to assist with the practical work on examination night as they had not been involved with the class instruction. Seventeen women and about five men from the class were interested in joining the Brigade and, as a Divisional Inspection was about to take place at Brighton, the ladies were invited to be present to see what went on and to meet members of the Division. The evening was not a success and the visitors were not enthused, especially as most of them lived in suburbs further along the line and travelling would create a problem.

Mr Buchanan lived down Sandringham way and, as he helped out with the Sandringham Division, he invited Bobbie to take the ladies and form a Nursing Division at Sandringham. After much thought and with approval from Headquarters, the Sandringham Nursing Division was registered. They co-operated well with members of the Ambulance Division and were kept busy with

beach duties, which extended over a large area, ending at Brighton, golf duties and other sports duties. Meetings were held in a beach hut and the Sandringham Division progressed and grew. The unity and friendliness of the group made it a pleasure to be part of it. The Brighton/Moorabbin Nursing Division did not change its attitude and did not progress. Its numbers were down to 5 or 6 women and it eventually disappeared.

As the Divisional Superintendent of the Sandringham Ambulance Division had been seriously injured in a car accident, Peter McKinnon, his Divisional Officer, became responsible for the Division. He was easy to work with, enthusiastic and energetic, and he did his utmost to keep things running smoothly. However, following his appointment as Divisional Superintendent 12-18 months later, the Nursing members were advised it was no longer convenient for the Ambulance and Nursing members to meet together and that the only night the hall was available for the women was Sunday. This was unacceptable to the Nursing members and alternative accommodation was sought.

"It is an ill wind that blows nobody good" and, in this instance, it proved a godsend for a new hall had recently been built for the RSL in Ormond and was available on payment of a donation to legalise occupation. No rent was required and, as the hall had all modern conveniences, cupboards, storage space, kitchen facilities etc., it was sheer luxury after the shared beach hut.

On Moving to Ormond, the Sandringham Nursing Division changed its name and the Ormond Nursing Division was born.

The move was advantageous in other ways. Most of the members lived round this area and it meant they were closer to home. Arrangements were also made for the girls to regularly attend for duties at the Bethlehem Hospital in Kooyong Road and, when the Mary Potter Wing for Multiple Sclerosis patients was later opened, they were especially welcome. Another opportunity was made available

to the girls at Bethlehem Hospital for Mr Mulvaney, a well-known Melbourne Surgeon, performed his varicose vein operations there and they were permitted to observe many of them. The hospital training and nursing experience gained by the Ormond Division girls was outstanding and the help they gave to the hospital over a long period of years was greatly appreciated.

Ormond Division was running two First Aid classes a year and the knowledge of Nursing members increased rapidly. They were keen and, in 1962/3 began thinking about, and training, to enter the First Aid Competitions. It was in 1965 that Ormond won the State Competitions and were determined to give a good account of themselves in the Interstate Championship Competitions to be held in Hobart, Tasmania, during June 1966. They trained regularly and, despite the fact that they were competing against other States which had either the full support of Ambulance Services, or hospital backing with access to equipment and training facilities, their work was so good and of such a high standard they proved victorious and brought the trophy home to Victoria. This team created history for the State as they were the first Victorians to win the Championship Competitions, Interstate.

From personal observations Bobbie realised that, when Officers were appointed, very little was done to assist them to understand and cope with their responsibilities, nor were any guidelines available to which they could refer when problems arose. Her thoughts turned to an Officers' Training Course which all Officers (new and previously appointed) could attend. Here they would learn how to correctly deal with the many Brigade record forms, how to delegate and share responsibilities, what to delegate, how to organise classes, and many other essential requirements for an Officer to become an effective leader.

In speaking of this matter to Mrs. Crerar, District Officer (Nursing) at the venue for the State Competitions, Tony Hinton-Bayre who was standing nearby asked if he could join in the

discussion as he, too, was very interested in the training of Brigade Officers. During 1965 he visited Bobbie at her home on one occasion to talk about an Officers' Training Course but didn't seem over interested in her ideas.

Having won the Victorian District Competitions, the Ormond Nursing Division team was training hard for the Australian Championship Competitions to be held in Hobart during June 1966, so Bobbie asked Tony if he would defer further discussion of the OTC until after the Competitions, to which he agreed. However, he went ahead and started what he called the first Officer Training School class. Tony Hinton-Bayre gave instruction in a series of talks but, as there was no class participation, no examination and no certificate, little was achieved, members lost interest and classes were discontinued.

Being firmly convinced of the importance of Officer training and its overall value to the Brigade, Bobbie advised Mr Billing, the District Superintendent, that she would like to organise an Officers' Training Course. However, as Trevor Macfarlane had already spoken similarly to him, Mr Billing suggested that perhaps Bobbie and Trevor could undertake this venture together.

A meeting was arranged at which Mrs. Crerar, Mrs. Freeman, Mr Mason, Mr K Kane, Mr McAlpine, Mr Macfarlane and Bobbie were present. Trevor Macfarlane chaired the meeting and, as he was looking for ideas, Bobbie submitted for consideration a syllabus she had prepared the previous year. The syllabus applied also to NCOs and included sessions on what should be known about, and how to deal with the various Brigade forms, how to deal with and record Divisional accounts, included a little discipline, a little drill, a little psychology, and a check on the First Aid standard and teaching ability of each member. The syllabus was approved and the team appointed to cover the programme was as follows:

Mr Trevor Macfarlane was to teach Badges of Rank and Drill.

Mr Bruce Davenport was to teach Brigade accounts and forms (Administration)

Mr Jock Berry was to teach First Aid

Mrs Bobbie Davenport was to teach Leadership.

This team worked together successfully for many years and the training courses met with great enthusiasm. One of the first guest speakers at the OTC was the late Sir Kingsley Norris - his subject, "Why Officers needed to be leaders and how to go about it."

In those days, District Staff made very few visits to country areas and, when the team conducted Officers' Training Courses in country districts, they were welcomed with open arms. Officers responsible for country Divisions were ignorant of many basic Brigade requirements and were crying out for information and guidance.

The day Colonel Christie retired from the Brigade is one Bobbie remembers very clearly. Colonel Douglas Donald had just been appointed Chief Commissioner of the Brigade in Australia, Mr Billing had been appointed his Chief Superintendent and Mr Max Phelan had been appointed District Superintendent, Victoria District, filling the vacancy created by the promotion of Mr Billing. It was at Colonel Christie's farewell afternoon tea party that Mr Billing presented Mr Phelan with his epaulettes and Bobbie felt that she was seeing the end of an era. Miss Evans, who had been in Administration at Headquarters most of her life had already left and many of the people who had given so much to the Order in Victoria were now moving away from it and a new, younger group, with vastly different ideas was taking over.

By this time Mr Phelan had established the Rescue Section of the Brigade and it was functioning well. Severe bushfires broke out in Victoria during 1966/67 and, at one fire where she went for the purpose of helping Red Cross members, Bobbie was appalled at the state of confusion which existed. She felt that Nursing members of the Brigade could do something useful and

constructive at a disaster site and it was here that the idea of Mobile Nursing came to her.

In creating Mobile Nursing, Bobbie had not only provided a sound, highly efficient disaster nursing backup section, but had written Australia into history by establishing the first Mobile Nursing section of the Brigade in the world. As with the Rescue Squads, members of Mobile Nursing had to be physically fit and able to exert a great deal of self-discipline. This section proved invaluable when major disasters occurred in Victoria for, having fully equipped vehicles of their own, Mobile Nursing teams were self-sufficient and able to travel quickly to emergencies. (The first Mobile Nursing van was purchased, equipped and stocked by Bobbie and her brother John, for use by the Ormond girls).

The Douglas Donald Camp at Yarra Junction was being developed during this 1966/67 period and Bobbie was on the Committee as Nursing representative, Lorna Forster represented the Nursing Cadets, while Kevin Kane and Ashley Mason represented the Ambulance and Ambulance Cadets sections respectively. Mr Billing and Mr Pascoe were original members of the Committee and, to recognise his untiring efforts for this project, a cairn was erected at the camp site in honour of Mr Pascoe. Bobbie well remembers she and Lorna scrubbing the big hall and making curtains for its windows.

The first exercise with which Mobile Nursing was involved was held at the Douglas Donald Camp Site and this was a rather traumatic experience, as neither Bobbie nor the girls knew how members of the Rescue Section would accept their presence. They realised they were very much on trial, that a great deal of attention would be focused upon them, and knew they had to produce their very best efforts. It was at this exercise, as she was busy treating a casualty that Bobbie first came into contact with Dr Peter Bush. This was the start of a long, pleasant association and, about two years later, they combined to write a book "Rescue Nursing" copies of which are still being sold today.

In February 1967 Bobbie became a member of District Staff and, over ensuing years, saw many changes take place. Mrs Joy Weston, who was then District Superintendent (N) was replaced by Dr Mary Irvine in 1969, while the District Commissioners with whom she was associated were Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, followed by Dr HH Jackson, and then Dr Peter Bush. When Dr Irvine resigned from the Brigade in 1973, Dr Bush invited Bobbie to accept appointment as District Superintendent (N) Victoria District, to which she agreed providing that she had direct access to the Commissioner at all times. Mr Phelan resigned as District Superintendent (Admin) following her appointment.

For a number of years Bobbie had been devoting two or three days a week to work voluntarily at Headquarters in sorting out old papers and Brigade records which had accumulated. Working in the basement of the Little Lonsdale Street building, she endured putrid, damp air, bad light and rats, conditions not conducive to good health.

Bobbie proved a capable leader who was very interested and concerned with people and their needs. She had an advantage in knowing how the Brigade operated and what had been achieved in the United Kingdom and could see many areas here where improvements were necessary. She was practical in her administration of the Nursing section of the Brigade in Victoria and never lacked courage to offer suggestions or to promote ideas for changes to be made, providing it was for the benefit of all concerned and not just for a minority.

During her term of office as District Superintendent (N), Victoria District, Bobbie was involved in a number of innovations which extended the role of the Brigade and further developed some of its established activities. Briefly, some of the matters with which she was associated are as follows:-

1. So that female members of Combined Divisions could keep up to date with current affairs and have an opportunity to discuss problems, the regular Officers' Meetings were expanded to include

Representatives and so became Officers' and Representatives' Meetings (O&R).

This proved very successful and lessened the unnecessary loss of Nursing members from male dominated Combined Divisions where little consideration was given to female members.

2. The Retired & Reserve (R & R) Group was introduced into the organisation.

3. Competitions:

- (a) Facilities were improved by the building of a prefabricated complex which could be easily and quickly fitted together.

- (b) Presentation of casualties was up-graded and, as acting became part of the curriculum, greater realism was produced.

4. Interlink became a successful, acknowledged section of the Brigade, catering for its young adults.

5. The Officers' Training Course was established to improve leadership and administration.

6. Family Divisions were inaugurated thus enabling parents and children to be involved in the same Division.

In relinquishing her responsibilities as District Superintendent (N) when she moved to Lakes Entrance, her work on behalf of and with people did not cease, nor did she lose interest in the Order of St John.

She was instrumental in organising First Aid classes held at the Health Centre, Lakes Entrance, which proved very successful. As there was a great need for First Aid coverage at sporting functions (gymkhanas, pony clubs, motor bike races, fairs etc) held in the District, a St John Ambulance Brigade Division was established at Bairnsdale.

Bobbie realised that, as many residents of Lakes Entrance were elderly and often lived alone, there were times when they needed help in some way. She was also aware that a great deal of expertise existed in the district as many professional people

and tradesmen retired there. So that these groups could be brought together, Bobbie started "Community Care" - a very successful project, now in its seventh year.

A big challenge was thrown to Bobbie when a representative of the Education Department enquired if she and Bruce would go to Lake Tyers and try to teach the aborigines First Aid.

A great deal of planning was necessary if this proposition was to succeed and good timing was essential. For instance, meetings had to be arranged before pension day as, after collecting their money, the aborigines would go on a drinking spree and would be out of action for a couple of days. However, Bobbie wanted to prove that those who wanted to improve themselves were teachable, so using their dictionary, she put together about six foolscap pages of instruction. The textbook, redone in pictures, was presented to the class by means of an overhead projector. The aborigines are marvellous copiers. If shown a picture they can copy it perfectly. The etchings and drawings in their individual textbooks are truly magnificent.

Three representatives of the Education Department attended each week to assist with translation and were also present to interpret the multiple-choice questions on the examination paper for them. The examination paper is the same as that used for the white community.

Nine aborigines enrolled for the class, nine sat for the examination, and nine passed. It was a triumph, for it proved that they were teachable.

From that experiment, instructors from the Education Department have since conducted classes at Lake Tyers and have taught various skills, one of which was brickmaking. Since then, the aborigines have built three houses, making the bricks and drawing the architectural plans themselves.

At Buchan, in the Snowy Mountains, Bobbie gave talks to groups about the Order of St John and work of the Brigade. She has, in fact, travelled to many isolated, difficult to reach places in order to widen the extent of St John teaching, and has been influential in improving First Aid facilities in certain areas.

In all, considering her influence on decisions made when she was actively associated with the Order of St John in Melbourne and her activities subsequent to her move to Lakes Entrance, Bobbie's achievements and concern for the welfare of others exemplifies the true spirit of the Order of St John as it was manifested by those early Crusaders, preserved throughout the ages and left as a heritage for us to maintain with dignity in our modern society.

Mr Norman Alexander William Billing, K.St.J., J.P.

Some years ago a young, single man was asked by his brother-in-law if he would accompany him and members of his Scout Troop on a "tramp" over the Dandenongs, starting from Bunyip and finishing at Gembrook. As he had no other plans, he agreed. Little did he know it at the time but this outing was to influence the life of Norman Alexander William

Billing and to have a strong bearing on his future activities.

At one stage of the hike, Norm was making pancakes for the boys but didn't realise that the frypan he was using had a jointed handle. As he tossed the hot pancake in the air to turn it, the

handle of the pan folded up and the contents landed on his hand, giving him a very nasty burn.

Part of the fun of the outing was at the river where the boys threw various members of the party into the water - Norm was one of them. Whether this affected his burnt hand or whether it would have become infected anyway is not known but, at the end of the hike, he was suffering excruciating pain from his badly blistered and burnt hand and had developed a lump in his armpit. He was very sick and miserable and the fact that Mr W Fyfe of the Caulfield St John Ambulance Division verbally chastised him for his ignorance of First Aid, and berated him for being with a party of boys without having the faintest notion of what to do if any of them suffered an injury or were ill, didn't improve his condition. Further, he was advised to do a First Aid course.

As time passed he still hadn't got around to enrolling in a class but, coming upon a car accident while out driving one day, he was jerked back to reality when he had to watch a young man literally bleed to death because he hadn't any idea of what to do. Norm suffered dreadfully as he helplessly stood by, realising how ignorant he was of even elementary First Aid measures. The time of indecision concerning joining a class was over and Norm enrolled in a class conducted by Mr Les Batchelor at Caulfield.

When the course finished, a suggestion was made that he join the Brigade and this he did, becoming a member of the Caulfield Division on 20th July 1939.

After he married and settled down, one of his interests was politics. He had been a member of the Liberal Party for about two years, regularly paying his annual subscription and occasionally attending a meeting. However, at a fund-raising Ball which had been organised to provide finance for a campaign to be conducted with regard to an approaching election, Norm asked who was to be the candidate to replace the outgoing member who, for various reasons, was relinquishing his seat. He

was aghast at being told the name of the person and said, "But he's hopeless - I could do better myself!" His companion agreed and said; "Well, why don't you stand" and, after much encouragement from others and still with many doubts that anyone would vote for him, he agreed to the nomination. Imagine his surprise and gratification when he found himself elected by the people of the Heatherton and later the Springvale Electorate, whom he represented and faithfully served in the Liberal Party of the State Parliament of Victoria for a period of twelve years.

As may be gathered from the foregoing, two major interests in the life of Norm Billing developed almost by accident and changed the entire direction of his thinking and activities. His service to the order of St John is indeed impressive and of great interest. Starting in the ranks of the Brigade, he experienced the satisfaction and pleasure of running a Division and, later, the responsibilities of District Staff appointments. As will be seen from the following details, his work was not confined to the Brigade but embraced all sections of the Order of St John

Priory:

Member Priory Chapter since 1957

Member Priory Council since 1959

Member Association Standing Committee since 1960

Member Brigade Standing Committee since 1959

Administrative Officer St John Ambulance Association Australia since January 1969

Chief Superintendent St John Ambulance Brigade since 1.8.1968

Transferred to Reserve 30.4.1981

Awards:

Serving Brother 4.12.1947

Officer Brother 17.11.1954

Commander 18.11.1959

Knight 11.11.1964

Service medal and six Bars at 31.12.1980

St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District:

Enrolled Caulfield Division 20.7.1939

Formed Malvern Division 14.6.1944

Divisional Superintendent 14.6.1944
 District Officer Gr III 1.1.1954
 District Officer Gr II 1.8.1956
 District Superintendent 1.7.1958 – 31.7.1968

St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre:

Assistant Secretary October 1956 to 30.4.1965
 Secretary (Salaried service) 1.5.1965 to 30.6.1973

All Priory Association and Brigade Service was honorary. The salaried service was only to St John Ambulance Association, Victoria Centre.

St John Council for Victoria

Foundation Member 1954
 Honorary Secretary March 1969 – 30.4.1981

St John Holdings

Honorary Secretary 25.9.1962 to 30.4.1981

As part of his duties as Chief Staff Officer for the Brigade in Australia, in 1973 Norm visited Papua New Guinea where he spent a fortnight travelling vast distances inspecting and assessing Brigade work. It was only to be expected that there would be great differences in the progress and development of First Aid knowledge in various areas, some being very advanced while others were of a low standard.

In a country of vast contrasts, where living and educational standards were not universal, where many of the inhabitants still existed in primitive conditions, the advancement of St John Ambulance Brigade work, against great odds was, in many instances, fantastic. It was a most interesting and enlightening tour of inspection for Norm and one which will remain in his memory for a long time.

Being closely connected with the Order of St John and State Parliament, Norm very graciously escorted members of St John round Parliament House in Spring Street, Melbourne, when the premises were open for inspection, pointing out and explaining many items of interest. He enjoyed sharing his privileges with others and dispensing pleasure in this way.

When Norm Billing decided to undertake instruction in a First Aid course so many years ago, little did he think his association with St John would span a period of 42 years. Certainly he did not imagine that his political career, started in such a nonchalant way, would prove so absorbing and rewarding. His contribution of service, both to the Order of St John and in his public life, is greatly respected and appreciated and, as a matter of interest, a resumé of his activities is attached.

Norman Alexander William Billing

State and Federal Service	1929 – 1956
Assistant Secretary St John Ambulance Association (Victoria)	1956 – 1965
Secretary St John Ambulance Association (Victoria)	1965 – 1973
District Superintendent St John Ambulance Brigade	1958 – 1968
Chief Superintendent (Australia) St John Ambulance Brigade	1968 – 30.4.81
Administrative Officer St John Ambulance Association (Australia)	1968 – 30.4.81
Manager Secretary (part-time) Springvale & District Community Hospital	1958 – 1976
Councillor Shire of Dandenong	1955
Councillor Shire of Springvale & Noble Park	1955 – 1959
Shire President Shire of Springvale & Noble Park	1957 – 1958
Councillor City of Springvale	1962 – 1965
Chairman Noble Park Technical School Council	1957 – 1974

Member Advisory Councils:

Springvale High School	1967 – 1979
Parkdale High School	1967 – 1976
Westall High School	1967 – 1976
Heatherhill High School	1967 – 1976

Justice of the Peace since 1955 : served Dandenong Petty Sessions until 1960	1955 – 1960
Chairman of Justices Springvale Magistrates Court	1960 – 1967
Founder and Chairman South Eastern Group Honorary Justices Association	1965 – 1967
Vice-President Springvale District Boy Scouts Association	1967 – 1979
Member Board of Management Victorian Civil Ambulance Service	1958 – 1968
Chairman of Joint Committee Order of St John and Red Cross (Victoria)	1965 – 1973
Member National Joint Committee Order of St John and Australian Red Cross.	
National Delegate for St John Ambulance Brigade to the National Youth Council of Australia	1959 – 1972
Member for Heatherton Victorian Legislative Assembly	April 1967 - March 1976
Member for Springvale Victorian Legislative Assembly	March 1976 - May 1979
Chairman Parliamentary Road Safety Committee	1975 – 1979
Member Monash University Council	1976 – 1979
Secretary, Victorian Parliamentary Former Members Association	1981

Mrs Pamela Paia (nee O'Brien)

Pam O'Brien was a bright, intelligent young girl who, in 1966, decided to join the Broadmeadows Nursing Cadet Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade. She gained her first two certificates, Home Nursing and First Aid - in that order - and was frustrated to find that, although she had passed a Home Nursing examination, Brigade Regulations did not permit her to participate in duties, or wear a Nursing Cadet uniform, until such time as she obtained a First Aid Certificate. It was indeed unfortunate that Pam had undertaken the Home Nursing course first but, despite her disappointment at having to wait until she had qualified in First Aid to become an active member of the Division, she

no doubt realised the importance of this Regulation.

In order to produce her best efforts, Pam always needed to set a goal for herself. During her years as a Nursing Cadet she was grateful for the never failing interest of Marj Bradbury (now Mrs. Henry), Superintendent of the Broadmeadows Nursing Cadet Division, who gave her encouragement and support and guided her in the right direction.

Pam applied herself assiduously to learning as many skills as possible, was conscientious and reliable in all she undertook and, being a natural leader, was ambitious in wanting to advance in the

Division. This she did and her progress was as follows:-

After promotion to the rank of Corporal she was:

Promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 13.3.1969.

Promoted to Cadet Leader on 28.4.1971.

Appointed Divisional Officer on 10.3.1973.

Appointed Divisional Superintendent on 31.1.1979.

Another of Pam's ambitions was to obtain a Grand Prior's Badge and to qualify for this she had to gain twelve Proficiency Badges over a set period of time. Pam became the first Broadmeadows Nursing Cadet to receive a Grand Prior's Badge and the pride she felt in this achievement was perhaps only overshadowed by the thrill she felt in 1979 when four of "her" Nursing Cadets were presented with Grand Prior's Badges at the annual Parade held at Government House.

When arranging proficiency courses for the Nursing Cadets, Pam permitted interested Ambulance Cadets to also participate and no doubt was instrumental in helping many boys to obtain badges.

As a Cadet Officer Pam conducted three camps which not only proved most enjoyable, but also created a great bond of friendship between those who attended.

Pam was keenly interested in Brigade Competitions, strongly believing they developed more efficient First Aiders and improved Home Nursing techniques. With Pam as leader and Kris Wyatt and Marjorie Cannon completing the team, Broadmeadows Division won the Australian Nursing Cadet Championship Competitions in 1971. Some years later, Pam, Dianne Giblin and Hazel Hart succeeded in having Broadmeadows acknowledged as the champion Victorian Nursing team.

Pam retains many wonderful memories of her activities with St John and of the many caring, friendly people she met. When the team triumphantly returned home in 1971 bearing the Australian Nursing Cadets Championship trophy,

she fondly remembers handing it to Mrs. Freeman for safe keeping, Mrs. Freeman being the District officer (Nursing Cadets) - a wonderful lady whom Pam sadly misses.

During the exciting years when the Brigade created a Rescue Section and later a Mobile Nursing Section, Pam became a Mobile Nursing member on the 31 October 1972 - two days after her eighteenth birthday.

Because of her association with the Brigade, Pam was encouraged to undertake Nursing Aide Training at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1978 - 79. On completion of the course, she was awarded the Mabel Tennant Prize for 1979 for being top of the class.

While she was training at the Royal Melbourne Hospital she met her husband, Snowdern Paia. Their friendship developed following his discharge from hospital and, on the 22 December 1979 they married, moving to Papua New Guinea where Snowdern was a Pilot in the Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

Pam left "her" Nursing Cadets at Broadmeadows in the capable hands of Divisional Officers Sue Penaluna and Debbie Sinclair, both of whom had also come up through the ranks.

Despite the fact that life in Papua New Guinea was vastly different from that in Australia, Pam continued service as a member of St John and attended the Lae Division on several occasions. The first evening she gave a talk on the equipment content of "their ambulance" and the use of it. At another Meeting she gave a talk on head injuries and the unconscious patient. This must have been a difficult experience as members of the Division were of a low educational standard with only a very limited knowledge of English. Pam's husband translated much of what she said into pidgin English as, at that stage, Pam knew little or none.

Pam's interest in the work of St John must have proved very welcome to members of the Lae

Division for, not only was knowledge shared with them, but she and her husband were instrumental in ensuring the continued use of the hangar at Lae Airport for Divisional Meetings and the housing of their ambulance.

In writing to officials of the Rugby League in Lae, Pam rendered another important service to this Division. Evidently duty at the Rugby League Matches had lapsed for some reason or another but, as the sport had resulted in a number of players suffering cervical injuries from which some had died, Pam mentioned that the Division had a Jordan Lifting Frame and its use. The duty was thereupon re-negotiated and the Division instructed to provide First Aid coverage at all future games.

Prior to returning to Australia for a visit at the end of 1981, Pam gave a talk to Cadets in Port Moresby, but cannot recall the topic.

For the first three years of their marriage Pam and her husband were frequently moved to different locations in Papua New Guinea. Since the birth of her two daughters (Tracey in July 1982 and Renee' in September 1984), it has been difficult for Pam to get out in the late afternoons or evenings, thus curtailing outside activities.

Just prior to leaving Lae in 1985 she gave two talks at the Catering College on emergency first aid. The classes consisted of young adults with a good command of English and proved most enjoyable.

Unlike Australia, a great deal of caution needs to be exercised in Papua New Guinea if aid is to be rendered to victims of accidents. It can prove dangerous to stop at, or after a car accident for, if members of the family of the injured person are present or nearby, they could hold the person

giving assistance to be responsible and kill them as a "pay back" (revenge). Thankfully, accidents are not an everyday occurrence. Pam has attended two - both some time after the accident happened - without any side effects to herself.

After leaving Lae, Pam and her family took up residence at Mount Hagen where they are still located. Since moving to this district, Pam has nursed back to health four persons with pneumonia (one 40 years of age, two in their 70's, and one in his late 80's or early 90's). She also recently assisted at the hospital with the care of two New Zealand children who were involved in a car accident. Following a tribal fight in an adjoining village, she took a Mobile Nursing Team comprising one New Zealand SRN, one Papua New Guinea SRN, a First Aider and herself, equipped with a box containing only basic First Aid necessities to deal with several casualties suffering from spear wounds.

Currently, Pam is training to become a Counsellor of (Susu Mamas) - a breast feeding child-care group. As leader of the Mount Hagen Branch, Pam includes such topics as Home Nursing, Resuscitation, Safety, First Aid etc and many families will surely benefit from her training.

Pam wishes to acknowledge the under-mentioned persons, not only for their support to her personally, but to the Brigade of the St John Ambulance, Victorian District:- Dr JP Bush, Mrs Marj Bradbury (Henry), Mrs I Freeman, Mrs J McRae, Mrs M Reid, Mr A Giblin, Mr W Leversha, Miss M Field, Miss T Peverill, Dr A Beech, Mrs M Davenport, and to the many people who assisted with her competition training in 1970 prior to the Nursing Cadets Championships held in Tasmania.

Reference Notes

Our Origin pp. 1-7

Publications

"*The Order of St John*" (A Short History) by E.D.Renwick, OStJ, and Major I.M.Williams, OStJ.

"*The Knights of St John in England*" by Colonel EJ King CMG, FSA, KStJ.

"*A Century for Australia*" by Dr Ian Howie-Willis

Information re non-recognised Orders of St John

"*A Century for Australia*" by Dr Ian Howie-Willis.

"*White Cross*" June 1974 - Article by Editor, D/O D.McIntyre, "The Five Legitimate Orders of St John".

Extract from "*The Times*" Newspaper dated 22.12.1973. "Story of the Real Order of St John" by J.P.Brooke-Little (Richmond Herald of Arms and Chancellor of the British Association of the Sovereign Military Order).

The Ophthalmic Hospital of the Most Venerable Order of St John in Jerusalem. pp 8-10

"*White Cross*" June 1980 - Article - "The St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem" by Dr John L.Crompton, MB.BS, FRACO, FRACS.

The Newsletter of The St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, July 1979 article "Jerusalem Scene '79", "St John Ophthalmic Hospital - Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow."

Publication - Ophthalmic Hospital Report of the Committee for 1960.

Linen Guild - Ladies' Guild p 9

Change of Name - Annual Report 1976 - Report from Australian President of the Linen Guilds

"Fellowship" for Post-Graduate Training p 10

Articles - "*White Cross*" March 1980 and March 1982.

Hospitaller & Almoner's Annual Appeal for funds letter dated 30.6.1985.

The St John Ambulance Association p 11

Correspondence and Printed Matter in Original Book of Records kept by Founder, Dr J.E.Neild.

Dr James Edward Neild pp 12-13

The Medical Journal of Australia No.14 Vol.II - 50th Year dated Saturday, October 5th 1963 Paper written by the late Sir William Johnston, Melbourne.

Typed pages recording the more personal aspects of Dr Neild's life and activities of his family compiled by Mrs Fairlie Taylor, ALAA, of 3 Stanley Avenue, Cheltenham, who knew the family well. (Letter enclosing same dated 30.9.1971 states she is 84 years of age, her sight is failing and she came across this spare copy of Dr Neild's life when clearing out her writing desk. Forwarded it to St John Headquarters.)

The St John Ambulance Association in Australia pp 14-22

Original Book of Records kept by Dr J.E.Neild - notices, newspaper reports, correspondence etc.

Information re "Selborne Chambers" obtained from Lucy Edwards, Archivist/Curator, City of Melbourne. (Letter dated 5.5.1986 held confirming telephoned information.)

Sub-Centres, St John Ambulance Association pp 20-22

Dr J.E.Neild's original book of records.

Photostat copy - articles printed in "Williamstown Advertiser" dated 23.10.1886 and 30.4.1887 respectively.

Handwritten Notes with letter dated 24.3.1983 from Mrs Ada E.Ackerley, Historian Williamstown Historical Society.

Incidents of First Aid being rendered during Association's early years pp 21-22

Annual Reports 1896, 1897, 1898. Correspondence.

Transportation pp 23-27

"*White Cross*" Vol.4 No.3 of June 1963 - "History of the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service and Ambulance Transport Services of Victoria".

"*White Cross*" June 1966 - Article by N.Billing, District Superintendent - "Notes concerning the formation of The St John Ambulance Association, Victorian Centre and the foundation and growth of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District".

Information re "Lang Lane" supplied per telephone by the Town Planning Section of the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works.

Statistics Kms travelled and stretcher cases - obtained from Public Relations Officer John Blossfeld, Ambulance

Service Melbourne and Michael McMahon, Department of Health.

Visit of American Fleet pp 28-29

Original Book of Records kept by Dr J.E.Neild – “Argus” newspaper reports dated 31.8.1908 and 1.9.1908.

“Moomba” Comparative Statistics 1973 – District Officer M.McLachlan’s records.

“The First 80 Years (1900-1980) Publication by “The Herald” and “The Sun” newspapers.

The First Aid Volunteer Association p 30-31

Booklet – Constitution and Rules of FAVA.

Seventh Annual Report of FAVA for the year ending 15.9.1915.

Annual Report of FAVA for year 1917.

Original Notes of Mr H.L.Perriman on “The Early History of the St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria”.

“White Cross” Vol.4 No.3 of June 1963. (Reference made to FAVA on p9 of “History of The Victorian Civil Ambulance Service and Ambulance Transport Services of Victoria.)

“White Cross” June 1966 – article by N.Billing, District Superintendent.

The St John Ambulance Brigade (1910 – 1916) p 32

Annual Report 1910.

Notes by H.L.Perriman on the “Early History of the St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria.”

Newspaper “Hawthorn and Camberwell Citizen” Report of Annual Meeting held 27.4.1911, of the Hawthorn Ambulance Brigade.

Original Registration Form Metropolitan Ambulance Division.

Original Registration Form “Brighton Nursing Division”.

Publication – “A Century for Australia” by Dr Ian Howie-Willis (Page 198/201)

Voluntary Aid Detachments (VAD’s) and the Australian Army Medical Women’s Service (AAMWS) pp 33-36

Extracts from Publication “Annals of the Ambulance Department” being the history of the SJAA, and SJAB – an English publication compiled by N.Corbet Fletcher.

Printed Programme of Annual Inspection of Voluntary Aid Detachments 1937.

Newspaper Reports/Photographs – Inspections, Competitions, Training.

VAD News Sheet No. 15 dated 15.11.1946.

Central Council for Australia p 37

Annual Report 31.12.1921

Honorary Instructors’ Association pp 37-39

Annual Report 31.12.1924.

Statistics from Annual Reports for respective years.

The St John Ambulance Brigade (1920 onwards) pp 39-41

Statistics from Annual Reports for respective years.

Brigade Structure pp 41-43

Copy of “Chain of Command 1963” attached.

Restructuring Nursing Section – “White Cross” March 19. 1972; District Order No 1/1972.

Brigade Re-structuring – Circular 15/87 of 22.4.1987 issued by Dist.Supt.(Admin) to all Corps Staff.

Brigade Training pp 43-56

Training Logs.

Competition Programmes.

Seminars - “White Cross” September 1970, June 1983.

- Notice and Programme Weekend 7/8th June 1980

Experimental Family Division p 56

“White Cross” December 1979 – Reports on progress of Division

Photostat copies of newspaper and other reports.

Nursing Divisions pp 57-60

Correspondence from and to Colonel A.Sherwin, District Commissioner, re restructuring Nursing Divisions.

Correspondence issuing from and sent to Mr N.Billing, Dist.Supt. re administration of Nursing Divisions.

“White Cross” 1972 – Article – “Brigade Structure (Nursing) 1972.”

Copy of District Order 1/1972.

Draft Submission dated 20.4.1978 of Chain of Communication with proposed amendment to General Regulations 38 p16 and to Plate 13 p70.

Cadets (Ambulance) pp 61-62

Unsigned letter dated 24.6.1946 to Mr Hallett, Town Clerk, Richmond City includes –

“The Richmond Cadet Division of the SJAB Overseas was registered at London Headquarters in the year 1931 and was the first Cadet Division to be formed in Victoria”

Annual Report 1954 – Commissioner, Brigadier W.W.Johnston in resume of Brigade states “Richmond Division (Cadets) formed in 1930”.

(Notes from Mrs Ida Freeman also stated 1930 but she could have found date in Annual Report 1954.)

Cadets (Nursing) pp 62-63

Nursing Cadets – Formation of – Copies of correspondence to and from Mrs Ida Freeman.

Cadets (Combined Ambulance/Nursing) p69

Competitions – Programmes etc., Information Sheets,
“White Cross” article and photographs.

Cadets – Amb/Nursing – Visits Overseas pp 65-67

International Conventions – Correspondence to and from
Staff Officer Cadets Australia.

“Messenger” Newspaper 8.8.1972 (International Golden
Jubilee – Isle of Wight)

“White Cross” September 1977, March 1978, June 1980.

“Observer” Newspaper 13.8.1980.

Australian Headquarters File “Mytchett” 1980 S.J.A.B.
Convention.

Reports of Representatives.

Cadets – General p 68-71

“White Cross” June 1969 – (Richmond N/C)

“White Cross” September 1972 – (Sale & Swan Hill
N/C)

“White Cross” - (Poowong)

“White Cross” June 1968, Correspondence, Accounts,
Balance Sheet, Programme (South Melbourne N/C 21st
Birthday Party)

“White Cross” December 1979 – (Footscray N/C)

“White Cross” March 1962, December 1963 and March
1971 – articles (General).

Interlink p 71-74

Brochure stating objectives and requirements for
membership.

Notice dated 1978 objectives, organisation of group,
outline of activities to date.

“White Cross” Reports June 1976, September 1977,
December 1977.

Report of Mrs Betson, District Officer (N/C) Officer-in-
Charge Interlink, dated May 1978.

Appeals p 75-77

No.1 – The St John Hall, Heidelberg Military Hospital.

No.2 – For Fund of £20,000 (\$40,000) for Brigade
members’ equipment. Pp 143-145

“The Argus” Newspaper Reports 13.11.1943, 14.3.1944,
21.7.1944, 22.7.1944 and other newspaper items
(undated and paper not specified).

“RACV” Journal June 1958.

“The Herald” Newspaper 5.7.1958.

Letter dated 1.7.1958 inviting support for Appeal.

Poster – “Appeal” Donations.

No.3 – For \$550,000 to improve facilities and training.

General Circular dated 6.6.1977.

Correspondence.

List of areas for community collections.

Advertising Brochures.

“White Cross” March 1978.

Copy of Minutes of Third Meeting of Appeal Sub-
Committee held 21.7.1977.

ASSETS pp 78-84

Training Camp Site, Yarra Junction.

Correspondence, Notes, Lists of Volunteers.

Permits, Plans, Specifications, Quotes etc.

Constitution and Rules SJAB (Vic.Dist) Camp
Management Committee.

Several Notices and Agenda Committee Meetings.

“White Cross” June 1967 (Official Opening).

“White Cross” June 1970.

Reports

Headquarters Building, 194 Little.Lonsdale Street,
Melbourne

Annual Reports 31.12.1956, 31.12.1957, 31.12.1958.

Brochure – Official Opening.

Tape - Official Opening

Headquarters Building, 285 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne.

Annual Reports 31.12.1977, 31.12.1978.

“The Sun” Newspaper 13.2.1979.

“White Cross” March 1979.

Brochure.

City Training Centre, 418 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne.

Annual Report 1986

The St John Council pp 85-94

Original Book of Records kept by Dr J.E.Neild.

Annual Report 31.12.1941 (Commandery).

Annual Report 30.9.1947 (Priory and Mrs Eccles
Mackay).

Annual Report 30.9.1948 & 30.9.1949 (Colonel Christie
& Council Membership)

Annual Report 31.12.1953 (Formation Centre Committee
SJAA and new Council)

Annual Report 31.12.1954 (First SJAB Report)

The St John Council deliberations: pp 85-94

Headquarters Building, 194-196 Lt. Lonsdale Street,
Melbourne

Annual Reports 31.12.1956 and 31.12.1957.

St John Holdings

Annual Report 31.12.1958

National Headquarters Building, Canberra.

Annual Reports 31.12.1964, 31.12.1965, 31.12.1967, 31.12.1968.

"A Century for Australia" by Ian Howie-Willis, financial comparison donations from States.

Land at Peel Street, North Melbourne.

Annual Reports 31.12.1970, 31.12.1971, 31.12.1972.

Headquarters Building, 285 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne.

Annual Reports 31.12.1977, 31.12.1978.

Executive Committee

Annual Report 31.12.1974.

Restructuring of Council

Annual Report 31.12.1976.

Mr S.I.Miller and Mr J.C.Trethowan

Curriculum Vitae

"White Cross" June 1980.

Air-Borne First Aid Section (Parachutists) p 95

Reports from T.L.Confoy dated 31.10.1962 & 4.12.1962.

"White Cross" Article – "Air Rescue".

Correspondence.

"The Herald" Article re suspension of operations.

St John Ambulance Brigade Brass Band. pp 96-97

BF7 (Appointment of Mr R.Dunn as Div.Supt. of Band)

"White Cross" Articles September 1962, September 1963, Autumn/Winter 1984.

Correspondence

Women's Auxiliary pp 98-99

Correspondence.

Constitution and Rules.

"White Cross" May 1959, December 1971.

Minute Book 28.9.1951 – 26.10.1959.

Rescue Squads/Mobile Nursing pp 99-114

"White Cross" Articles from 1966 onwards.

Rescue Squads Exercises (Training)

Article by Dr J.P.Bush reprinted from "Injury" Vol.3 No.4 April 1972.

Rescue Squads Duties (Bushfires, Floods, Searches, Rescues, Disasters, Pop Festivals)

Mobile Nursing: Report by Mrs Davenport.

Objects, Rules & Regulations governing – by Dist. Supt.M.D.Phelan.

"White Cross" articles September 1967, December 1967, June 1968, December 1977, March 1978, September 1979.

Communications pp 115-120

Report (taped) by District Officer Mr W.D.Iliffe, Founder of Communications Section.

"White Cross" September 1969.

Casualty Union pp 121-122

St John Ambulance Brigade Activities – Duties: pp 123-137

Royal Visit 1954

"The Age" Newspaper Reports 9, 11, 12 & 16.3.1954.

"The Herald" Newspaper Reports 12 & 16.3.1954

"The Royal Tour of Australia in Pictures" publication.

Olympic Games 1956

"The Herald" Newspaper 31.3.1956.

Copy of Olympic Games Public Duty Allotment Sheet.

Annual Report (Vic) 31.12.1956.

"The First 80 Years" Publication by "The Herald" & "The Sun"

"The Proud Australians" Publication by Bruce Howard.

The David Cassidy Show

"White Cross" 1976 Report.

The Papal Tour 1986

Annual Report (Vic) 1986.

Publication: *The Journey through Australia: John Paul II.*

Minutes of Meetings of Medical Steering Committee, 29.7.1986, 14.10.1986, & 2.12.1986.

The Bay City Rollers

"White Cross" March 1977 (from report of Tess Lawrence by courtesy Melbourne "Herald").

Report of D/O M.Goodall to Dr J.P.Bush, Commissioner.

Bushfires

Pictorial Magazine "Ash Wednesday" 1983 Bushfires.

Annual Report 1983.

Moomba

Complete organisational file 1973 of D/O M.McLachlan (Statistics recorded in "Visit of American Fleet 1908)

Superun

"The Sun" Newspaper 11.11.1985.

Annual Parade and Inspection pp 138-139

"White Cross" Articles and photographs March 1971, March 1975, Summer/Autumn 1985.

Colour Party pp 139-140

Verbal information from Dist.Officer A.T.Macfarlane re members.

Investitures pp 141-142

Printed Procedure Sheets for His Excellency The Governor of Victoria.

Tax Avoidance Scheme pp 142-145

"The Sun" Newspaper Report 3.10.1980.

"The Financial Australian" Newspaper Report 3.10.1980.

"The Herald" Sydney Newspaper Report 3.10.1980.

"The Sydney Morning Herald" Newspaper Report 4.10.1980.

"The Australian Income Tax Guide" Report 16.10.1980.

Copy of Minutes of Extraordinary Priory Chapter Meeting 6.12.1980.

"Play It Safe" Campaign pp 145-147

Organisational Literature/Outline, Objectives etc. of Campaign – 1978.

"White Cross", Newspapers, Magazines and Business Journals coverage 1978 to 1984.

Visitors pp 147-152

Various issues Annual Reports and "White Cross"

Order of St John Centenary Celebrations. pp 153-156

Copy of "Oration".

Programmes and Activities (Conference).

"White cross", Newspaper, Journals – Items, Articles, Photographs.

Publications pp 157-160

Annual Reports 31.12.1924, 30.9.1947, 31.12.1951, 31.12.1966, 31.12.1968, 31.12.1969, 31.12.1970, 31.12.1971, 31.12.1972, 31.12.1984.

Statistics from "A Century for Australia" by Ian Howie-Willis.

What of the future? pp 161-163

Personal information supplied by Mrs. Pam Paia.

APPENDICES

Appendix A p164

Deputy Priors – Victoria

Government Gazette and Annual Reports

Appendix B p 165-166

SJAA Centre Committee Chairmen

Original book of records kept by Dr JE Neild

Annual Reports 1886-1983

St John Council Chairmen and Presidents

Original book of records kept by Dr JE Neild

Annual Reports 1886-1983

Appendix C p 167

St John Ambulance Brigade – District Commissioners

"White Cross" 31.3.1965 – article by District Supt. Mr N Billing – "Notes concerning the formation of the SJAA (Vic Centre) and the foundation and growth of the SJAB (Vic District)"

"White Cross" June 1971 – article by District Supt. Mr M Phelan

Annual Reports

Appendix D p 168

SJAB (Vic) District Surgeons and Nursing Officers

Annual Reports

Appendix E p 169

SJAB(Vic) District Superintendents (A) and (N)

Annual Reports

Appendix F p 170-176

Awards

"White Cross" reports

Newspaper reports

Annual Reports

Appendix G – Historical Section pp 176-186

Caulfield SJAB Division

Twenty first birthday publication of Division's progress

"White Cross" reports

Annual Reports

Dandenong Nursing Division

"White Cross" December 1972

Ormond Nursing Division

"White Cross" December 1969

Report of twenty first birthday celebration.

History of Division by Mrs P Penduck.

Shepparton SJAB Division

"White Cross" June 1968

The Victorian Motorcycle Patrol Division

Report by foundation member Mr A Binns.

Copy of BF1 (Registration Form).

Information from Mr Allan Taylor

Appendix H – Biographical Section pp 187

Information supplied by individuals concerned or family members, with articles submitted for approval.

Index

Aldridge A W	117
Allenby Field Marshal Lord	8
American Fleet	28
Anderson Dr Esme SSSJ	11,130
Anderson Glenn	47,64
Andrew Professor H M	22,23,27,85
Anker Dr Robyn	55,153
Appleton Mr C	79
Appleton Miss E C (S) SJ	123
Archer Dr Frank	44,55,153,154
Archer Mr W H	15,85
Armstrong Mrs Elaine	111
Ashford Litters	23
Askew Graham	55
Atkinson Herbert	69
Auxiliary Women's	(Refer letter "W")
Australia Post (1983)	155

Bache Dorothy	56,127
Bage Dr Chas. MA, MD	17,27
Bage Miss Jessie	48
Bailey Peter	46
Baker E Ormond Esq. JP, OSJ.	123,124
Ball Dr. Richard	51
Bamford Chas	140
Barned Mr M SBSJ	134
Barton John (C/Ldr)	71
Batchelor L. N.	82
Bateman Derek (Dist Supt.)	55,117,151
Bateman Ian	106
Batson Sister	104
Bechmann Rayner	66
Beech Allan M OSJ, QHP (Group Capt)	50,51,92
Bell Miss M. G.	27
Bennett Phil (Chief Insp Police)	130
Bent Mr Norman	79
Betson Joan (now Patterson)	73,74
Bevan Mrs L. J.	23
Billing Norman Dist. Supt.,	78,79,80,82,91,92,133,212-215
Birrell Dr John (Police Surgeon)	48
Blackburn W. J. Esq.	86
Blackstock Gladys	70
Blair Dr J.	15,85
Blashki & Sons P/ L	139
Bluck Mr Richard	9,61,146
Blythe John (President S.J.A.A.)	18,25
Bonacci Michael A.	160
Bonaparte Napoleon	1, 8
Book Hilda	39
Bowman Cr (Mayor of Sale)	69
Boyd Harold	176,179,185
Boyd Mrs. H.	82,98
Boyd Lindy	66
Braemar Pty Ltd	82
Braybrook Mr Ron (Assist. Comm. Police)	49
Brentnall Dr E. W. M.B.E. CSJ	43,93,94,127,153
Brett Dr P. E.	32
Briggs Sgt Margaret	46
Brighton Centre SJAA	17
Brink Mary	39
Briner Sgt Edward	109,110
Brock Peter	147
Brooks Gen. Sir Dallas KCB, KCMG, KCVO, DSO, KSJ	82,124
Brooksbank Dr Mary	51
Brown Mr E	78,79
Dawson Sister Beth SJAB (Chief Supt (N))	53

Brown Harry	39
Brown Miss Rose	21
Brownbill Mr David	52
Budge Fred	39
Budgen Bob (Corps. Supt.)	204
Bunce Dr	17
Bunny D & H & Co	82
Burke Amanda	46
Burke David	49,50,51
Burke Peter J	46
Burrows Frank	79
Burston Maj. Gen. Sir Samuel R CB, CBE, DSO, VD KSJ, MBBS(Melb), FRCP(Lon) FRCP(Edin), FRACI,	86
Burton Dr A W KSJ	49,50,51,88,91,92,103
Burton Mrs Elizabeth	10
Bush Dr J Peter KSJ	48,49,50,51,52,53,56, 91,92,94,103,104,144,146,150,153,159,218,220
Buttons Mrs Hazel	46
Byers Les	204
Byrnes Mr (Amb Div Swan Hill)	69

Caffyn Dr	18
Cairns Lloyd Leline CSJ, BEM	10,117,130
Canham Marjorie	47
Cantlon Cpl Brian	46
Carey D/O Brian	126,130,132,153
Carey Mrs M B (Corps. Supt.)	127,132,209
Casey Lord (H.E. Gov. Gen.)	89
Caslake Bruce	140
Chandler D J & W H	22
Chapman Sgt Francis	70
Chapman Colonel J A OBE, SBSJ	86
Cheshire Dr David	49
Christie Colonel A MBE, CSJ	82,86,124
Christie Mrs A	98
Chief Sec. (Govn.)	24
Ciminelli M	47,64
Civil Defence Authority	100
Clark Marcus	12
Clarke Lady Janet	23
Clarke Sir W J	16
Clarke Ron	125
Coats Professor	50
Cocks Cpl Graham	46
Confoy Mr Thos. Leo.	95
Cook Cpl Bonnie	46
Cook Mr Robert	49
Cope Judge	18
Coppin The Hon George MLA	15,85
Coulthard Sister	10
Country Fire Authority	105
Coverdale Cpl	62
Cowper Murphy & Associates	76
Craigie R L CSJ D/O	78,79,82,92,160
Crawford Dr Bruce	49
Crennan John	107
Crerar Mr Alan	78,82
Crerar Mrs Annis D/O	58,82
Creswick Mrs H F DSJ	87
Crock Professor Gerard CSJ	10
Cuthbert Betty	125

Daley Air Vice Marshal E A CBE, OSJ, QHP	87,88,91
Daughters of The Court (The)	23
Davenport A B SBSJ D/O	52,91,93
Davenport Mrs M S OSJ D/O (N)	42,59,78,79, 92,93,100,104,159,207-212
Davis Dr A S OSJ	94,127,209
Davis Sr Barbara J OSJ	44,92,127,136,153
Dawson Mr John	51

Deakes Wayne	Corps Officer	155
Delacombe Maj Gen Sir Rohan	KCMG, CB, DSO, KStJ, LLD, (Gov Of Vic)	103
Denman Sir Thomas	(Lord Chief Justice of England)	2
Deveney Sr Dorothy M		132,187-190
Devereaux Peter		69
Dick Rear Admiral Royer	CB, CBE, DSC, KStJ, (Commissioner in Chief Saint John Ambulance Brigade)	81,148
Donald Alex	D/O	132,138,140
Donald Colonel Douglas	CBE, KStJ, ED, (Commissioner of Vic)	69,70,80,90,91,92,144,148
Donald Mrs D		69,70
Donovan Dr J E		49
Downes Maj Gen R M		75,86
Downes Mrs R	OSJ	87
Dugan Sir Winston	(Govn of Vic)	75,76,85
Dunant Henri	(Red Cross Switzerland)	3
Duncan Dr	(Kynelon)	17
Duncan Mr T		56
Duncan Colonel Francis	RA, DCL, LLD	4,16
Dunn Mr Robert		96,97
Duncan Colonel Francis	RA, DCL, LLD	4,16
Dymond Robert J	KStJ	79,82,91,101,121
Dymond Mrs R J		98
Dyring Mrs C V		98
Dyring Dr V C	SBSJ	88

East Christine		47
Edgar Miss		21
Engblom Mr Ray		113,117
Evans Captain		18
Evans Keith	D/O	132
Evans Mr T		82

FAVA - First Aid Volunteer Assoc		30,31
Field Miss M		153
Findlay Mr A B		82
Firth Mr W		79,80
Fire Brigade		34,105
Fiske Bros		24
Fitzgibbon Mr G G		15,85
Foley W	(Corps Supt)	127,153
Foster Mrs L		78,79
Fraser Dawn		125
Fraser Mr Donald L	D/O	61,62,94
Freeman Mrs Ida	DSJ	62,80,88,92,98
Fry Ann - Marie		66
Fry Alan		146
Furley Sir John		3
Furneaux Mr W		82
Fyfe Mr W E		82,87
Fyfe Mrs W E		98

Galbally Dr Brian		51
Gale Dr David		51
Giblin Alan		150
Gifford Alfred S H	OBE, KStJ, DCM	91
Gillbee Mr William		15,85
Gloucester HRH Richard The Duke Of	GCVO	83,151
(Grand prior of the Order)		108
Godkin (Senior Constable)		130,132
Goodall Mervyn		12
Gordon Adam Lindsay		104
Gore Police Inspector		140
Gow Julie		111,127
Granger Stewart	D/O	140
Greay Trevor		21
Green Mrs Elaine		

Green Gerard		46
Green Miss I M	SSSJ	87
Green Sister Monica	(Dist Supt (N))	127
Green Major Roy	KStJ, RFD, Ed	52,92,94,150
Greene Valerie	Cpl	46,111

Hale Dr		49
Hale Robin		160
Halton Mr L B		81
Hamer Rev D J		15
Hamer The Hon R J	ED, MP (Premier of Vic)	146
Hamilton Mrs K	DSJ	87,92
Hannah Sister		21
Hansford Mr A Howard	MA, LLB	27
Hardy-Smith Dr P		52
Harlock Mr R		153
Havin Lindy		46
Havin Ian	D/O	118,120,127,134
Henig Patricia		46
Henry Dr		15
Herring Lieut Gen The Hon Sir Edmund	KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, KStJ, ED	91
Hewat Dr J	(Corps Surgeon)	154
Hewat Mary		154
Hewat Janet		154
Hewlett Dr		18
Hibbert Florence		121
Hines Mr M		153
Hodge Mrs		21
Holt The Hon Mr Harold	(The Prime Minister)	107
Honorary Instructors' Association		37
Hood George		44
Hooper Mr J		51
Hopetoun H E Earl of	(Governor of Victoria)	21
Horne Lieut Col George	MD	28,30
Howard Dr		121
Howie-Willis Dr Ian		156
Howqua Dr June		51
Hoys Theatres		76
Hulls Mrs G	CSJ	42,59,62,92
Hulls J	OSTJ D/O	92,127,134
Hume Brett	Sgt	46,153
Hunt Miss Evelyn		39
Hurley Air Vice Marshal T E	CB, CMG, VD, OSJ	87
Hurst Dr		51
Hutchings Mrs Dot		56

Iliffe Wilfred Douglas	Sgt OSJ	115,134
Imperial Chemical Industries		82
Investitures		141
Ireland Jack	D/O	127,150
Irvine Dr Mary		59
Irvine Sir William H		27
Ivy Thomas J Howard		20,22

Institutions, Organisations & Companies

Association for the Blind		10
BP Corporation		10
BHP House		19
Civil Defence Dept		106
Municipal Councils		123
Apex		123
Rotary		123
Lions & others		123
The Royal Humane Society Of Australia		19

Jackson George		130,146
Jackson Dr Harry		50,103

Jackson Mr N	153
Jago Mrs Bertha	121
James Mr	15
Jamieson Dr J	15, 85
Jerram Miss L	87
Johnson Andrew	140
Johnston Brigadier W W S	88, 124
Johnston Mrs W W	98
Jones Mr O	82
Jones Mr Peter	50
Joyce Vic Division Supt	52, 140

Kain Kevin	78, 79, 115
Kays Mr H	79
Kendall (Writer)	12
Kennedy Police Sgt.	104
Kernott Professor	15
Kerr Michael	140
Kerr Trevor	148
Kidney Bruce	140
Knaggs Samuel T Esq MD	11, 14
Knowles W	148
Kudelka Peter	48
Kuffer C L (Les) MBE, SBSJ	198
Kuffer F	127
Kurtz K	153

Lacey Geoff	52, 54, 117, 140, 153
Ladies Auxiliary	see Womens Auxiliary
Lake Wendy	66
Landy John	125
Lechmere Sir Edmund	3
Leckie Senator	75
Leuchars Maj. Gen. P R CBE, KSJ	151
Leversha Wilfred	108, 109, 150
Lindell Dr	103
Loch Sir Henry KCB	17, 19
Loch Lady	17
London Mr Peter S MBE, CSJ, FRCS, MFOM	53, 153, 154
Long Mr (Chemist)	12
Long Dr N Pratt OSJ	92
Long Susannah Maria	12
Lord Mr J Harold	27
Lovell Sister B	52
Loxton Sister	53
Lowe R	97
Lund Sir Otto KCB, DSO, KSJ	148
Luth Dr	114
Lynch Mr Philip	102

Macfarlane Mr A T D/O, D/Sgt	78, 79, 117, 127, 138, 140, 190
Macfarlane Enid	113
Mackie Dr Noel	48
Mackieson Judy	140
Mackieson W S OSJ	134
MacKay Mrs Eccles	86, 87
Madeley Mr E A	78, 79, 80
Malone Douglas	109
Mander Dr Jeff	51
Marshall Mr A W	134, 140
Marshall Mr Donald	49
Marshall Mrs P SSSJ	88
Mason E Ashley CSJ	9, 61, 78, 79, 81, 92
Mason N	127
Masson Bill	109
Mawdsley Dr J A CSJ	92, 94
Mayor of Sandhurst	17

Mc Adam Dr R L MB MD	27
Mc Alpine E R KSJ JP	78, 79, 82, 91
Mc Cauley Tom	152
Mc Conchie Ian	49
Mc Crea Dr	15
Mc Donnell Angus	74
Mc Intosh Miss T	153
Mc Intyre David Alexander	69, 104, 160
Mc Kinnell Mr	104
Mc Lachlan Connie	113
Mc Lachlan M Esq OSJ	92
Mc Leod Mr Allan	52
Mc Murtrie Peter	44, 153
Mc Phee Howard	160
Mc Quade Andy	66
Mc Rae June Sgt	46, 62, 153
Medancic Alec	140
Melba (Madam)	13
Melbourne City Council	23
Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works	13
Metropolitan Fire Brigade	13
Metters Pty Ltd	82
Miller Mr S I (Chief Commissioner Vic Police) CSJ, QPM	51, 83, 93, 94
Mills Mrs N	153
Mitchell Mr P	56
Moffatt Mr Andrew	49
Monaghan Douglas	66
Montagu Sir William Drogo (7th Duke of Manchester - Grand Prior England for 27 years)	3, 11, 17
Moomba	29, 135
Moore Mr Byron	15
Morgan L J Pty Ltd	82
Morgan Michael	108
Morris Professor	18
Morris Dr J Newman CMG, BM, FRACS, KSJ	86, 87
Morris Lt Colonel Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris KSJ, ED	88, 91, 148
Moxon Shirley	118
Moy Mr R	82
Moy Mr R J & Mr Stanley White Jnr	82
Myer Emporium	82

Nance A J	24
Neild Dr James Edward LSA, MD (Melb)	
Honorary Associate of the Grand Priory of the Hospital of St John Jerusalem	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 85, 153
Neild Mrs J E	23
Neild Lottie	13, 19
Nettleton Ruth	47
Newell Colonel L J OSJ, QPM, ED	94, 127
Newman-Morris Lady Sheila	10

Newspapers	
The Argus	12, 15, 17, 28
The Examiner	12
My Note Book	12
The Weekly Review	12
The Ethnic Press	145
Melbourne Herald	12, 14
Melbourne Punch	12
The Age	17
Melbourne Sun	102, 145
National Times	144
Newton Sir Alan MS, FRACS, OSJ	87
Nicholson Sir Arthur	18
Niggemeyer Mrs D	56
Norris Maj General Sir Frank Kingsley CBE, CB, DSO, KSJ, ED	82, 87, 91
Norton Mr H F	15
Nye Dr	51

Oakes Dr Barry	53
O'Brien Pamela	47,161,215
O'Dowd Colonel Ben	52
Oldham Tom	140
Olsen Captain Mike	52
Ophthalmic Hospital of St John Jerusalem	8,9
Orders of St John in Australia (not recognised)	6,7
Osgood Harry (later known as Harry Osgood-Cannon)	24,25,26,27

Panton Mr	15
Pascoe Harry M	61,78,79,82
Paterson Clarrie	116
Patterson Mrs Joan	153
Paymer Captain	18
Payne Captain Charles B	19,20
Peat Rev. Dr Sir Robert	2
Pearson Esq W R SBSJ	79,82,87
Penaluna Debbie	140
Penaluna Julia	140
Penaluna Lynette	140
Penaluna Maxwell	127,140,155
Penaluna Susanne	66,140
Penduck Patricia Cpl	46,140
Percks Richard	140
Perez Lou	140
Perkins H	47,64
Perkins Linda	70
Perriman Harold Leslie	30
Perrott Captain Herbert C	11
Petty Mr Peter	48,50
Peverill Miss L SSStJ	58,88,98
Peverill Miss T CSJ	42,59,92,121,153,202
Phelan Maxwell D	48,49,69,99,115,119
Pink Sister Noel	52
Pixley Commander (later Sir) Neville D	89
Play it Safe Campaign	145,146,147
Poke Maj General Frank	152
Police Chief Commissioner	18,24
Pope John Paul 2 nd	126
Porter Debra	66
Portbury Mr A	79
Potts A	18
Priest Brian	117,140
Priory Meetings (Centenary)	154
Publications Australian submissions to England	157,158
Punton Bill	109
Purser Colonel B	127
Pye Coral	140

Quinlan Judge	15,85
---------------	-------

Radio Station 3UZ	95
Ralph Mr A	79
Rank Sir Benjamin CMG, CSJ	92,93,152
Raven Frederick Esq JP, CSJ	86,87,88
Red Cross Society Glen Waverley Branch	101
Reid Mrs Minabel CSJ	56,62,69,92
Rescue Nursing	159
Rivett Mr D	82
Robb Romani	47
Roberts Mr H J	95
Robertson Dr R	15,16,18,85
Robinson Joyce OSJ	42,59,140
Robinson Sir William GCMG	19
Rogers G M Esq OSJ	87,88
Rose Murray	125
Rowe J (Staff Officer)	150
Rozner Mr Leo	48

Ruzeu Natalie	66
Ryan Dr Tony	49

Sainsbury Mr H	82
Sapir Jacques	116
Sargood Major MLC	15,85
Schlesinger Dr	19
Self Sister Lesley	66,74
Sherwin Colonel J A H VD,MD,FRACS,KSJ	58,62,75,86,87
Shields Kenneth J SBSJ	93,127
Shuey Police Inspector K	103
Simms Mr R	52
Sinclair Dr Alex	48
Sleeman Sir James Lewis CB, CMG, CBE, MVO, MA, Knight of Justice St J	61,62,147
Smith Alan	109,110
Smith Colin	118,119,151
Smith Fiona	46
Smith Hugh	61,62,63
Smith Neil Esq	93
Sparks Alan	111
Spears William	22
Springthorpe Dr J W MA, MD	18,30
Stein Chief Officer Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station Eastern Hill	23
Stening Colonel (later Sir) George	89,143,144
Sterck R L Pte	46
Sterling Mr W	61
Sterling Mrs W	98

St. John Ambulance Association 'A'	14,15,16,17,18,19,20,24,25,26,27,32,81
St John Ambulance Association Suburban Centres	20

St John Ambulance Brigade Victoria Band	96,97
St John Ambulance Brigade Victoria Band – Spencer	96,97
St John Ambulance Band South Aust. District	155
St John Auxiliary Concert Band	97
St John Council	17,18,19,20,24,25,26,144
St John Holdings	89,143,144,145
St John Ambulance Brigade Nursing Divisions	57

Straede Mrs W T C (Kay)	10
Strickland Mr F R G OBE, CSJ	83,93
Strickland Shirley	125
Sultan of Turkey	8
Suriano Mr P R	82
Sutherland Dr Struan	52
Switzer Margaret	134

Tax Avoidance Scheme	142-145
Taylor Mr Lloyd	15,17,18,20,23,85
Taylor Mr Ian	51
Television	101,102,104
Templeton Major	15
Thompson Mr C S	82
Thomas Colonel D J	76
Thorogood Leslie G OSJ	92,115
Todd Mr W J	77
Toohey Timothy	66
Toyne Wing Commander A H CBE, CSJ	92,151,158,159
Training Camp Site – Yarra Junction	80,81
Trethowan Mr J C AM, B COM, FASA	93,94
Trinca Dr	50
Trotman D	97
Tuck Dr Tuck	10
Tyler Peg	62
Tyquin Michael	140

Visitors Royal Connections

King Henry 8 th	1
Tudor Mary 1 st (Queen)	2
Elizabeth 1 st (Queen)	2
Victoria (Queen)	5
Edward Prince of Wales	5
Duke of Clarence	5
Duke of York (later King George 6th)	40
HRH Richard Duke of Gloucester GCVO — see "G"	
HM Queen Elizabeth 2 nd	123,124
HRH Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh	125
HRH The Princess Margaret Countess of Snowdon CI, GCVO, GCSJ	139,149

Special Visitors

The Lady Louis Mountbatten DCVO, CBE	148
The Countess Mountbatten of Burma	148
Marjorie Countess of Brecknock	149
Major General The Earl Cathcart CB, DSO, MC	152
Countess Cathcart	152
The RT Hon The Lord Wakehurst KG, KCMG, GCSJ	80,89,148
Lady Wakehurst	80,89,148
Dorman Sir Maurice GCMG, GCVO, MA	152,154
Lady Dorman DSJ	152,154
Gordon Maj Gen Desmond CB, CBE, DSO, KSIJ, JP	150,151
H.E. The Gov-General & Prior of the Order in Australia Sir Ninian Stephen AK, GCMG, GCVO, KBE, KSIJ	154
Lieut. Colonel Bob Payne KSIJ, JP	149,150
Colonel J L Sleeman CB, CMG, CBE, MVO, MA see under "S"	

Vick Mr	70
Victoria's Centenary	40,153-156
Victoria Police Band	138
"Gendarme" the Drum Horse	138
Victoria Police Force	18,20,105
Victorian Railways	16,17,18,20
Vines Mr	16
Voluntary Aid Detachments	32,33,34,35,36.

Wallser Steven	66
Wardell Dr J C	5
Warne J	18
Warren Dr Richard	14,15,16,17,85
Watkins Mr Alan	51
Watts Mr E A	76
Way H R	22
Weigall R E Esq MB	30
Wells Miss E J DSJ	86,87
West Neil	140
Wharton Mr P L OSJ	93
Whatmough Sister Jan	74
White Don	140
Whitehead Ian	47,64
Whittle Barry	116
Wigg Dr	17,18
Williams Jim	79
Wilson George	117
Wilson Mr K	87
Wilson Supt Goulburn Valley Amb. Service	103
Winneke H E Sir Henry KCMG, OBE, KSIJ	91,92,109
Winneke Lady CSJ	91,92
Wiseman Mr J	79
Wishart Dr M B	78
Woodall Harry	51,104,113,115
Women's Auxiliary	79,80,82,98,99
Woods The Most Rev Dr Frank	81,148

Woods Sister Kaye	61,62
Wotherspoon Beryl	62
Woulfe Anne-Marie	47
Wrench Mrs Alan	69
Wyatt Kristine	47
Wylie Mr L	56
Wylie Mrs	56

Yeoman R A Esq OSJ, FASA, RCA	92
Young Sir John KCMG, KSIJ	83,92,156
Young Mr John P OBE	77,93,94

Zox Professor E L MLA	15,16,85
-----------------------	----------

