

THE Bulletin

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALASIA

Edition 2: 2020

GRAND PRIOR'S REPORT - June 2020



Introduction

Welcome to the Second Edition of the Grand Priory Bulletin. The purpose of the Bulletin is to have direct contact with all the Members of the Grand Priory of Australasia, and to keep all members informed of the decisions by the Grand Priory Council.

2020 has been a year that I am sure we would all like to forget, starting with the bush fires in southern Australia, COVID-19, and the social unrest throughout the world. We are fortunate we live in the best country in the world

The Council is authorised by the Australasian Constitution to make By-laws for the good of the Order, management and administration of the Order in

Australasia, provided they do not have conflict with the express provisions of the Australasian Constitution and the International Constitution.

In my first Bulletin Report I made mention of the Council revisiting the Constitution. Deputy Grand Prior Richard Trigg and Bailiff Brian North are presently reviewing suggested changes which will be an Agenda item at the 2021 Meeting of the Grand Chapter .

Grand Priory Council Meeting Report

The June Grand Priory Council was the first electronic meeting by means of Zoom. When this decision was made in the peak of the health crisis, we believed we had a responsibility to the Members of the Grand Priory to continue to meet as scheduled and to continue the good governance and policy of this Grand Priory. It is pleasing we are now slowly getting back to our normal life, pre COVID-19.

The Council Members welcomed and congratulated Dame Elida Brereton and Chevalier Graeme Gatley on their appointments to the Grand Priory Council. Their election to the Council was based on merit and knowing they both will contribute greatly to the Council.

Secretary Chevalier Graeme Gatley presented members of the Council a demonstration of 'SharePoint Document Management System', which will allow Members a streamlined approach to facilitate the recording of Grand Priory files and proceedings.

Our Manual of the Order is very specific in the guidelines recommending an elevation in rank of a Dame or Knight. A promotion is not only to be made because of meritorious conduct and service to the Order, it must constitute recognition of merit based on the work or deed of the individual. In March I approved nominations for promotion, including a number direct from the Grand Prior. These have been sent to the Grand Magisterium for approval.

Aspirants

In March I also approved 16 Aspirants, and more recently a further one, giving a total of 17. Victoria will be investing 7 Aspirants, 5 Aspirants from South Australia, and 5 Aspirants from Tasmania. It is pleasing that the Pories were able to reschedule their Investitures: the South Australian Priory to 17th October, and the Victorian Priory to November 14th. The Tasmanian Priory Investiture is still scheduled for October 10th with the Grand Priory Council meeting the day before in Hobart.

The Meeting of the Grand Chapter will be held in Adelaide on 17th October 2020, in conjunction with the South Australian Priory Investiture.





Report continued

I was pleased to inform Grand Prior Emeritus Bailiff Peter Wiltshire OSJ that he was awarded the Cross of Merit by the Lieutenant Grand Master, Bailiff Paul Borg OSJ. The award recognises Peter's contribution to our Grand Priory over a long period and considered to be above what could be expected. A formal presentation will be made to Bailiff Peter at the Victorian Investiture in November.

In April we conducted an experimental Zoom meeting with the three Priors, Deputy Grand Prior, Chancellor and Secretary and the following was agreed;

- ◇ The Prelate and the Victorian Chaplain requested that pastoral posts be included on the Grand Priory Webpage during the COVID-19 crisis and future important religious events. Prelate Father David O'Neill has since agreed to work collaboratively with Chaplains to provide a fortnightly post. I commend the Prelate and our Chaplains for reaching out to our Members. The pastoral posts have been a huge success, as our monthly analytics for May resulted in 507-page views, 158 unique views, 94 first time views and 64 return views. Our Web Page was also viewed by people in New Zealand, USA, Denmark, India & China.
- ◇ Webpage Protocol which has now been approved by the Council.
- ◇ Agreed the Investitures of Victoria and South Australia were to be deferred, but now rescheduled.
- ◇ Agreed Grand Chapter to be re scheduled for later this year.
- ◇ Agreed the Grand Priory to purchase a licence for Zoom.

The Petit Conseil was due to meet in New York on April 29th but was postponed because of COVID-19. Hopefully the next meeting scheduled for this October will be able to proceed. Regular contact with our Lieutenant Grand Master has been maintained by Chancellor Bailiff Brian North and the Grand Prior during the epidemic in Malta, and he and his extended family are all well.

Council members Chevalier Alex Anderson and Dame Rosemary Brooks are currently seeking out prospective Aspirants in New Zealand as a foundation for a future Priory.

Members of the Grand Priory Council support the proposed formation of a New Zealand Priory, on the condition the Grand Priory will not be exposed to establishment costs until the Council sees sufficient local interest.

Congratulations to our Western Australian Member, Chevalier Professor Bryant Stokes AO RFD KSJ MB BS FRACS FRCS being awarded an Officer in the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list.

OSJ Charitable Foundation Ltd

The Directors of the OSJ Charitable Foundation Ltd met in February, and I am pleased to announce Chevalier Graeme Gatley was appointed Secretary of the Foundation. The Directors of the Foundation met this month as well to ratify donations made this financial year, and to confirm a list of balances held on behalf of each Priory.

Directors of the Foundation are Grand Prior David Wilckens (Chairman), Deputy Grand Prior Chevalier Richard Trigg, Chancellor Bailiff Brian North and Treasurer Chevalier Peter Robertson.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a serious effect on philanthropy and will affect the ability of our Priors to donate similar amounts as in previous years to their charities. The Grand Priory Council has addressed this subject and Priors will make their own announcements.

I would like to thank the three Priors and the Deputy Grand Prior for establishing constant and valuable communication links over the last six months with the Grand Prior.

Chevalier David Wilckens KJSJ
Grand Prior

15th June 2020



Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller - Australasia

Under the Constitution given by His Late Majesty King Peter II of Yugoslavia
Lieutenant Grand Master H E Bailiff Paul Borg OSJ

Grand Priory of Australasia

From the Office of the Grand Priory Secretary, Chevalier Graeme Gatley KGSJ

Members of our Grand Priory were exceptionally pleased to be able to watch a special Feast of John the Baptist Service which the Grand Priory Prelate and the Tasmanian Priory jointly presented at All Saints Parish Church, South Hobart (via video). Our members found it to be truly exceptional with an inspirational message, and an auxiliary service in lieu of our postponed Investiture Services.

We collectively acknowledge the effort and skill which was invested in planning and 'producing' such a great service in spite of the limitations of the Covid 19 restrictions.

Warmest congratulations to Tasmanian Prior John and Grand Priory Prelate Father David on the initiative. We offer you and your members our congratulations, grateful thanks and appreciation.

The link to watch the service and to get a copy of the Service Booklet remains live on the All Saints, South Hobart website: www.allsaints-southhobart.org.au

GRAND PRIORY COUNCIL DIARY 2020/21

PRIORY INVESTITURES

Tasmanian Priory Investiture Saturday October 10th 2020
South Australian Priory Investiture Saturday 17th October 2020
Victorian Priory Investiture Saturday 14th November 2020

GRAND PRIORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Grand Priory Council meeting in Hobart 9th October 2020

Grand Chapter Meeting will be held in Adelaide on 17th October 2020

In collaboration with

Grand Prior Chevalier David Wilckens KJSJ,
the Grand Priory of Australasia BULLETIN 2nd Edition 2020, has
been compiled and edited by Dame Barbara Abley AM CJSJ



MEET DEPUTY GRAND PRIOR Chevalier Richard Trigg KJSJ B COM FCPA



Richard was born in Geelong and completed his Commerce degree as one of the first graduates of the (then) newly established Deakin University in Geelong during the seventies. He joined the prestigious Chartered Accounting firm in Geelong, Day Neilson Jenkins & Johns, of which the late Chevalier Dr Geoff Neilson AM, GCSJ was one of the founding partners.

A few years later, Richard was keen to pursue a career in the country, so he and Helen moved to Kerang, in northern Victoria. There Richard joined a large rural accounting practice as a Partner, while Helen pursued her interests as a Pharmacy Assistant and later an Integration Aide at local schools. During that time, they also operated a small farm on the edge of the Mallee country and their two sons were born in Kerang.

While in Kerang, Richard joined the Victorian State Emergency Service as a volunteer and has remained a member for thirty years. Helen pursued an interest in Local Government and was elected as a Local Government Councillor and became Deputy Mayor.

During this time Richard joined Apex (a service club) and later was awarded Life Membership.

Helen and Richard have many shared interests including Ballroom Dancing. They competed from around 1969 to 1979, but still enjoy ballroom dancing.

Business interests led them to relocate to Bendigo where they both became involved in the closure of Girton College and the re-establishment of Girton Grammar School. Richard was a Founding Board Member of the new school and later became the Business Manager, guiding the school through its first few years to now become a highly success Independent School in the region.

During this time Richard joined Rotary (later becoming Club President and being awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship), and both Richard & Helen develop an interest in Australian Navy Cadets when their two sons joined as cadets.

That interest has continued for over twenty-five years and Richard holds the rank of Commander, responsible for the operations of 85 Units and 2,800 cadets/staff covering all parts of Australia.

On returning to Geelong, Richard re-joined the Day Neilson practice as a Partner and contributed to its evolution as it joined a national group and is now part of the international Findex group.

It was at that time, that Geoff Neilson invited Richard to join the Order of Saint John in 2003.

On joining, he re-established a childhood friendship with Chev Ross Synot OAM, GCSJ who he had not seem for some 35 years. Ross was the Geelong Commandery Treasurer at the time and did not miss the opportunity to involve a fellow accountant in the financial matters of the Order. Richard followed behind Ross, becoming Treasurer for the Geelong Commandery, the Victorian Priory and finally, the Grand Priory. Part of this period was quite tumultuous, being involved in the transition from the London Order to the Malta Order.

More recently, Richard has retired from his 16 year role as a Senior Officer in local government and continues to pursue various consulting & charitable pursuits along with Navy Cadets.

Richard was appointed Grand Priory Treasurer in November 2013 (to June 2019) together with Director of the Order and the OSJ Australasia Charitable Foundation.

Richard has been Deputy Grand Prior since June 2019 and is the Chamberlain for the Victorian Priory and the Grand Priory.

Both Richard & Helen remain active in the Order and the Australian Navy Cadets. They also share a love of classic cars, owning a number. Their two sons have a boy and girl each, so that's four grandchildren to love and cherish.

A busy and committed member of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller.



MEET THE GRAND PRIORY TREASURER CHEVALIER PETER ROBERTSON CGSJ



Peter is a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Secretary, and member of the Institute of Company Directors.

He was born in Adelaide in 1950 and spent his early years at Parawa, on the Fleurieu Peninsula south of Adelaide, where his parents were developing a farm property out of the native scrub. He began school at Yankalilla Area School, later boarding in Adelaide at St Peter's College where he enjoyed a range of sports and sea scouting.

A gap year between school and university allowed him to adjust his original ambition to study Agricultural Science. Instead he read Economics at the University of Adelaide, while participating enthusiastically at St Mark's College. He became Treasurer of the College Club in his final year.

After graduating he spent four years at Canberra's Bureau of Agricultural Economics where he researched crop commodities and aspects of rural finance. Canberra is also handy to the Australian Alps and Peter enjoyed skiing, bushwalking, sailing and fly fishing in the region.

Canberra allowed him to reassess his ambition about spending his entire career as an economist, and he began further study to broaden his qualifications. He returned to Adelaide and in 1976 joined KPMG's antecedent firm, Touche Ross & Co. as an auditor.

Peter's work as a Chartered Accountant involved a broad range of audit and business advice and he became a partner in 1987. In 1995 he transferred to KPMG in Russia as expatriate partner in charge of audit while his firm grew rapidly in Russia and Central Asia. He returned to Adelaide in 1998 and led audits in oil and gas, electricity generation, agribusiness and manufacturing. During his professional career Peter had the good fortune to work with some very significant clients, including Santos and the development of the Cooper Basin Liquids Project, the construction and operation of the Adelaide to Darwin Railway, the cattle empire of S Kidman & Co, and the innovative electronics company Codan.

He also audited well-known for-purpose organisations including Minda, Novita, the Heart Foundation and Cancer Council. Peter retired from KPMG at the end of 2006 and until mid-2010 was Company Secretary and Chief Financial Officer of the San Remo Macaroni group. He is a director of a private investment company, was independent member of the audit committee of Defense SA from 2006 to 2018, and served on the audit committee for Adelaide Hills Council. He has been involved in various capacities with management of The Adelaide Club since 1990 and enjoyed past experience in executive committees at St Mark's College and St Peter's College Foundation.

Peter and Robyn (also a Chartered Accountant) married in 1996 and have had an energetic family of highly pedigreed beagles bred and shown through their "Darkfelt" kennel. They live at Medindie, in the inner north of Adelaide and have a small property near Woodside in the heart of the Adelaide Hills wine region, which was unfortunately totally destroyed by bushfire just before Christmas 2019 and is thus now giving them much more to do than was originally intended.

Peter is an experienced, but these days very infrequent, golfer, maintains an active interest in investment and the Stock Exchange, and is unreasonably pleased on the occasional days when the Times cryptic crossword can be fully solved.

He was invested into the Order of St John in June 2014. He is the Vice Prior of the South Australian Priory as well as holding the role of Priory Treasurer. A very busy and dedicated member of our Order.