

# THE Bulletin

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALASIA

Edition 1: 2020

## GRAND PRIOR'S REPORT - MARCH 2020



Welcome to the first edition of the Grand Priory Bulletin. It is anticipated there will be three Bulletins per year which will follow the Grand Priory Council Meetings which are usually held in February, June and October. Communication to all members of our Order is very important, as the Council is the executive organ of the Grand Priory, and responsible for the management & administration of the Order. A maximum of 14 members is allowed on the Council, as well as the Prelate by invitation only.

### Grand Priory Council Meeting

The February Grand Priory Council was held in Tullamarine Victoria. I was able to congratulate Dame Barbara Abley for her re-appointment as Victorian Prior. Dame Barbara's service and leadership to Victoria and Tasmania over the last four years has been outstanding.

I informed the Council that it was an honour to be elected the 10<sup>th</sup> Grand Prior of the Order in Australia, and the second South Australian. I acknowledge Bailiff Vic Techritz who was the first South Australian Grand Prior of Southern Australia who was elected in 2006.

I undertook to the Council that I would bring strong leadership, insist on good governance, maintain and grow unity and harmony on the foundation laid by our past Grand Priors.

I informed the meeting that I believed in strong communication and being inclusive to Council Members, especially with our 3 Priors who represent our members and are the public face of the Order in their respective states. We also needed to continue giving extra assistance to our 'Junior' Priory in Tasmania and intend to have the October Council Meeting in Hobart, the day before the Tasmanian Investiture.

After my appointment by the Petit Conseil my first discussion was with Deputy Grand Prior, Chevalier Richard Trigg who was informed that I wanted him as my Deputy, but not in name only, and to be part of the decision making, and give guidance when called on. This has already started, and we speak often. I do not believe we need a second Deputy, but this may change in the future.

Bailiff Brian North's re-appointment as Chancellor gives the Council the benefit of Brian's knowledge and history of the Order, as well as the strong link between our Order and Malta.

### New Members of the Council

I was pleased to appoint two new members to the Council, Dame Elida Brereton of Victoria and Chevalier Graeme Gatley from Adelaide. Graeme will become Grand Priory Secretary, and I look forward to working with Dame Elida, as I believe she will be a great contributor.

I also appointed Chevalier Alex Anderson as Grand Priory Extension Officer, the position that Chevalier Barry Abley held for many years. The Petit Conseil has a policy of appointing Lieutenants, and I wished to follow that example. Dame Rosemary Brooks was appointed the Lieutenant Extension Officer.

We call ourselves 'Australasia' but in several respects, we are not. Chevalier Alex Anderson and Dame Rosemary Brooks will see if we can achieve the aim to have a New Zealand Commandery or Priory in the next 4 years.



## Report continued

I was pleased to appoint Dame Jan Synot as Grand Priory Hospitaller, and I know she will do an excellent job and continue her contribution to the Council.

Dame Leonie Clyne from Adelaide is already assisting our Chamberlain in preparing kits for new members. She will be the Lieutenant Chamberlain.

### Revising the Constitution

The Constitution was last revised in 2016 and does requires updating. I appointed Bailiff Brian North and Chevalier Richard Trigg to carry out this review with the legal assistance of Chevalier Robert Lawson QC from the South Australian Priory.

Priors, and members of their Priory Administration Councils have been asked for proposed amendments.

### Grand Prior's Attendance

Within days of my confirmation as Grand Prior from the Lieutenant Grand Master, I was honoured to Invest 3 new Knights and 2 Serving Sisters in November 2019 in Ballarat. This was followed by a celebration Luncheon which gave me an opportunity to meeting more members of our Order, which I really enjoyed doing.

In late February this year, the Victorian Priory had the formal inauguration of the new Ballarat Commandery, the commissioning of our new Commander, Dame Val Sarah, and the reappointment of Dame Barbara Abley as Victorian Prior. Thank you for making Jill and me feel so welcome.

Last November, I attended the South Australian Priory Christmas Function at the Kooyonga Golf Club. This event was well attended and one of the best for fellowship and organisation. Thank you, Prior Tony Woods and your Committee for a great night.

### The Challenge Ahead

We are all aware of the past devastating bush fires in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In accordance with our motto, the Grand Priory approved a donation of General Account Funds to the Victorian and South Australian Pories.

Australia and the world are facing a bigger catastrophe in combatting the Global COVID-19 pandemic which will affect all our daily lives.

As a Christian Order we now face a huge challenge of looking after the increasing people in need.

Please all remain safe .

Chevalier David Wilckens KJSJ

Grand Prior

## GRAND PRIORY COUNCIL DIARY 2020/21

### INVESTITURE DATES 2020

June 13th South Australian Priory Investiture Christ Church North Adelaide; June 27th Victorian Priory Investiture (Melbourne) 11am St Andrews Anglican Church, New Street, Brighton; October 10th Tasmanian Priory Investiture (Hobart) All Saints Anglican Church South Hobart.

**ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETINGS 2020** Grand Priory 13th June (Adelaide) South Australia 13th June (Adelaide) Victoria 27th June (Melbourne) Tasmania 1 July (Hobart)

**GRAND PRIORY COUNCIL DATES** June 12 Adelaide October 9 Hobart

**PETIT CONSEIL** April 29/30 New York (tbc) October tba

**SOVEREIGN COUNCIL 2021** March 26/27 (Malta)



## **INTRODUCING GRAND PRIOR, CHEVALIER DAVID WILCKENS KJSJ, AAIB, FIM**

David was born in Adelaide into a family with a strong tradition in building construction. Whilst completing his Building course at the University of South Australia, he developed a passion for concrete structures. At the age of 24 he established his own business, specializing in high rise buildings, civil concrete structures, and eventually leading into general building and project management.

With his expertise in concrete structures, David and his business were soon involved in major infrastructure projects, such as the Argyle Diamond Mine in Western Australia, Boyne Island Power Station in Queensland and the Tarcoola to Alice Springs Railway line.

His Building Company had a policy to negotiate its work instead of tendering, and it was involved in many high rise projects, including the Australian National Wool Stores. He was a member of the Australian Institute of Building, Fellow of the Institute of Management, and Company Member of the South Australian Master Builders Association.

In the mid-nineteen eighties his company was acquired by one of Australia's leading public listed Civil Engineering groups and David was appointed a Director and Chief Executive of Asian Operations in 1993. David and his wife Jill were relocated to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for 10 years where he established a series of companies and joint ventures in Peninsula Malaysia, Sarawak, and Indonesia. A mining project in China, south of Kunming, resulted in a large discovery of Zinc.

David was invited to join the Order of Saint John, Knights Hospitaller in 2010, and appointed South Australian Secretary and Priory Administration Council Secretary in 2011, serving three Priors. In 2015 he was appointed Secretary of the Grand Priory Council and a Director of the OSJ Australasia Charitable Foundation Limited. He was elected Grand Prior by the members of the Grand Priory Council in November 2019, and approved by the Petit Conseil, Malta, in the same month.

David's charities include the Mary Potter Hospice, the Adelaide Burnside Hospital and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of SA and NT.

With his expatriate contacts he mentors mining and civil engineering graduates from the Camborne School of Mines, Cornwall (UK) helping them acquire work in Australia; & other mentoring in assisting & advising the start up of small construction businesses in Adelaide .

David is married to Jill, and they have three children, and seven grandchildren. He enjoys playing golf, watching the AFL, gardening at his river home on the Murray, and is an avid reader of Asian history and culture.





## The Grand Priory Council March 2020



**Grand Prior: Chevalier David Wilkens KJSJ**  
Invested 2010



**Deputy Grand Prior/Chamberlain: Chevalier Richard Trigg KJSJ**  
Invested 2003



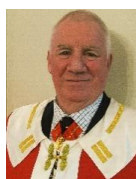
**Chancellor: HE Bailiff Emeritus J. Brian North AO RFD OSJ**  
Invested 2004



**Treasurer: Chevalier Peter Robertson CGSJ**  
Invested 2014



**Secretary: Chevalier Graeme Gatley KGSJ**  
Invested 2016



**Prior of SA: Chevalier Anthony Woods KJSJ**  
Invested 2005



**Prior of Victoria: Dame Barbara Abley AM CJSJ**  
Invested 1998



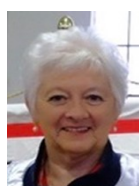
**Prior of Tasmania: Chevalier John Kennedy KJSJ**  
Invested 2008



**Archivist: Dame Mary Lewis OAM CJSJ**  
Invested 1996



**Extension Co-ordinator: Chevalier Alex Anderson OAM CGSJ**  
Invested 2009



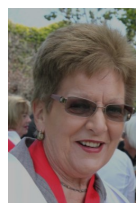
**Hospitaller: Dame Jan Synot DJSJ**  
Invested 2007



**Extension Co-ordinator Lieutenant: Dame Rosemary H S Brooks CGSJ**  
Invested 2011



**Chamberlain Lieutenant: Dame Leonie Clyne OAM DGSJ**  
Invested 2016



**Councillor: Dame Elida Brereton CGSJ**  
Invested 2012



**Prelate (ex officio): Chevalier the Reverend Canon David O'Neill KJSJ**  
Invested 2005



**Judge of the Supreme Court of the Order (By Invitation of the Grand Prior): HE Chevalier Peter Herriman RFD CGSJ**  
Invested 2014



## MEET A NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE GRAND PRIORY COUNCIL



### DAME ELIDA BRERETON CGSJ BA Dip Ed FACE

Elida Brereton is a Dame Commander of Grace in the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller, Victorian Priory, recently appointed as a member of the Victorian Priory's Major Events Committee. She is much in demand as a Guest Speaker at OSJ functions and fund raising Dinners – a very generous donor of her time and supporter of auctions and raffles. Elida was invested in 2012 at St David's Uniting Church Newtown Geelong.

Elida has worshipped at Ashburton Baptist Church most of her life and is a long serving Elder in her church and involved in HR and lay leadership there.

Elida grew up in Melbourne, and attended Ashburton State Primary School and Methodist Ladies' College Kew. She gained her Bachelor of Arts degree and Diploma of Education at the University of Melbourne. Elida has been an author, curriculum developer, lecturer and, more recently, a consultant and mentor. She began her long career teaching geography and history and quickly gained an outstanding reputation in geography, and authored / co-authored seven major geography textbooks.

Elida was a teacher and principal in the government school system for 43 years, being Assistant Principal and acting Principal at Brentwood Secondary College in the late 80s and early 90s, finishing in January 2010 after 15 years as Principal of Camberwell High School. From June 2010, Elida has worked part time for the Department of Education's Bastow Institute, mentoring and coaching new and intern principals, acting as a Critical Friend and helping schools through review processes; and she is currently a consultant and advisor to established principals and at a number of schools.

A member of the central Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals Committee in the 1980s, and in the 1990s, Elida was also the Minister's representative on the Board of Studies and Chair of the Assessment Committee. She was the National President of the Australian College of Educators (ACE) in 2002-04, a finalist in the Telstra Business Woman of the Year in 2003, was awarded the national Australian College of Educators Medal in 2013, this being the third major College honour awarded to Elida. She was previously named Fellow of the College in 1997 and, in 2006, received ACE's highest Victorian award, the Sir James Darling medal, named after the founder of the College and awarded to an eminent Victorian educator, who has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to Victorian education. Elida is a Paul Harris Fellow, and was head-hunted by the ABC in 2006 to play the role as Miss Margaret Murray, Principal of Summer Heights High in the Chris Lilley TV series. Elida's 'cred' with her peers in the education community was already well established, but it soared to enormously high levels with the children at Camberwell High following her appearance in the popular show. "They were absolutely thrilled that their principal was in it," Elida said.

Elida was seconded to be a method lecturer at Monash University's Faculty of Education in the mid-1980s, and is a member of key committees of both Deakin University and of Monash University at Berwick. She has been chosen to represent the Victorian educational world in South Korea, China, and the United Arab Emirates. She is an Honorary Life Member of the Geography Teachers Association of Victoria.

Elida is a Director on several Boards (all in an honorary capacity), chairing one which provides over 300 Christian chaplains to government schools, and two of which are schools. She is a member of the Advisory Committee of the National Centre Against Bullying (which is allied with the Alannah and Madeline Foundation) and is on the Executive of the National Council of Women Vic. She is also a Director of Foundation Boroondara, and the Methodist Ladies College; a Director of Mustard Inc, and a Committee Member of NCAB. Elida sees the aims of the Future Problem Solving Program as a natural fit for her, given her continuing passion for all things educational and her belief in the transformative nature of learning to create strong and independent thinkers for our future.

Elida's main cultural memberships are as a subscriber to the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Theatre Company, the Australian Ballet, and the Geelong Football Club. She is a regular guest on radio including 3AW and ABC 774's break fast shows for comment about educational matters, and takes pleasure in being able to discuss the importance of education. She is a very busy and popular public speaker and has many speaking engagements across the country.

Elida loves travel, and is a passionate, prolific photographer and story-teller who feels she has been richly blessed in life.





## MEET THE GRAND PRIORY SECRETARY



### **Chevalier Graeme Gatley JP KGSJ      Invested 2016**

Graeme was born in Walkerville in 1951 and spent the first three years of his life living in Aldgate in the Adelaide Hills. With the health of his father an issue, a move to Linden Park was made. Educated at Linden Park Primary School, Graeme was in year 5 when his father succumbed to the health issues that had resulted from his service with the RAAF in World War II.

The community rallied around Graeme and his mother and she was appointed the first librarian at the Primary School.

After completing his education at Linden Park Primary School and then Adelaide Technical High School an aspiration to be an Air Traffic Controller was not possible due to restrictions enforced at the time precluding applicants wearing prescription glasses, so he started a Cadetship with Elders Pastoral Company.

After a short period of time at Elder's Head office, Graeme was transferred to their Wool Department where he worked initially in the office then in the Technical Department and finally as a Senior Wool Auctioneer and Valuer. Graeme married Felicity Hann in 1986, they have three children. Anne, Senior Neurological Speech Pathologist at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Alexander, a Graphic Designer for the Anglican Church in South Australia, and Lachlan completing an Occupational Therapy degree.

Having successfully completed study at TAFESA, the Universities of Adelaide and South Australia recruitment by TAFESA soon followed, initially as a part time Lecturer and then in 1986 as a full-time staff member. As Head of School he was instrumental in relocating his faculty initially to Cheltenham and ultimately to the Roseworthy Campus of the University of Adelaide. Following a placement as Principal Curriculum Officer, Primary Industries, Graeme was seconded to the Chamber of Mines and Energy and ETSA Utilities to develop training programs for both industries.

A key element of this time with the Chamber was the development of a program for indigenous students that would give them a career pathway in the mining or electrical industries post their secondary education. With a Federal Government Scholarship in 2001 to complete a post graduate degree in Career Counselling, Graeme's final teaching role was with the Education Department working with High School students from low socio economic and rural schools.

In 1990 Graeme was appointed to the Veterans Children's Education Board here in South Australia. This volunteer role, together with a consultant position with the Australian Veterans Children's Assistance Trust Scholarship Scheme allowed Graeme to mentor and support students from ex-service families.

Away from the classroom, Graeme has been actively involved in cricket and men's lacrosse at both the state and international level. Cricket scoring of a World Cup match between Australia and Sri Lanka and Managing the Australian Lacrosse Team at World Championships in England and the USA were certainly highlights.

Retirement has allowed him more time to pursue a range of volunteer interests. Membership of the Legacy Club of Adelaide continues to be an important part of Graeme's life as he works with widows, widowers and the children of ex service personnel. As a family Graeme and Felicity have been parishioners at St Matthews Anglican Church, Maryatville for over 25 years. Over this time Graeme has been a member of Parish Council and the Church co-ordinator of the Safer Ministries program.

Since 1992, Graeme has volunteered twice a month at the Burnside Council as the duty Justice of the Peace.

Graeme holds the positions of South Australian Priory Secretary, PAC Secretary, and Grand Priory Secretary. He is a JP, and his qualifications include BEd, DipT, Grad DipEd Admin, Grad DipEd Computing, Grad Cert Career Counselling.