

LE CHEVALIER



July 2021



Jean Parisot de Valette - Siege Of Malta

See more - page 13

Newsletter of the South Australia Priory
Order of St John Of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller



Prior's Report

As I reported to the Annual Chapter meeting, we in SA have been very effective in containing Covid-19 to the extent that Priory operations are essentially functioning as usual. The one exception however has been the cancellation of the Film Night for the second year acknowledging the potential for Covid outbreaks during the long lead time required to organise the event. It is hoped that next year we will be able to reconsider holding this activity.

At the moment, we are seeing a very troubling increase in Covid infections in NSW with a commensurate escalation in hospitalisations and intensive care admissions. This closely follows an earlier re-emergence of the virus in the Victorian community. The impacts of the closures and restrictions that accompany such outbreaks is immense with many families and friends being kept apart or even isolated. Plans have been disrupted and we have seen the Investiture in Victoria once again having to be re-scheduled. This is a timely reminder that the risks associated with this pandemic are still very much with us and are unlikely to lessen anytime soon. As we are constantly reminded, having sufficient numbers in the community vaccinated is the only option available if we are to bring the restrictions and closures to an end.

The Annual Grand Chapter meeting held in June was also transferred to Adelaide as the border with Victoria was closed. At that meeting a revised OSJ Constitution was adopted and I would encourage all members to familiarise themselves with the updated version. A similarly revised Manual of the Order is also now in use. At the SA Annual Chapter meeting that followed I was delighted to report on the generosity of our members towards the Annual Appeal which has enabled us to maintain our usual contributions to the Mary Potter Foundation.

We welcomed six new members, three Dames and three Knights, at the Investiture in June. It was a wonderful occasion and we were delighted to host the Grand Prior, Chevalier David Wilckens CJSJ and Mrs Jill Wilckens, our Prelate, Chevalier the Reverend Canon David O'Neill KJSJ, who officiated at the Service, and the Prior of Tasmania, Chevalier Ed Gauden OAM CGSJ and Mrs Gauden. The Celebratory Luncheon was a joyous and

Continued next page



Officers of the Priory

Prior

Chev. Professor Tony Woods CJSJ

Vice Prior

Chev. Peter Robertson KJSJ

Vice Chancellor

Chev. Peter Summers OAM CGSJ

Chaplain

Chev. The Reverend Dr Carl Aiken KGSJ

Chamberlain

Dame Dr. Leonie Clyne OAM CGSJ

Secretary

Chev. Jim Howard AM RFD CGSJ

Treasurer

Chev. Peter Robertson KJSJ

Hospitaller

Chev. Dr. Harold Lane OAM CJSJ

Function Coordinator

Chev. Don Stewart CGSJ

Grand Priory Council Members

Baliff Brian North AO RFD OSJ Chancellor

Chev. David Wilckens CJSJ Grand Prior

Dame Dr. Rosemary Brooks OAM JP DJSJ

Grand Priory Extension Co-ordinator Lieutenant

Chev. Prof. Tony Woods CJSJ SA Prior

Chev. Graeme Gatley JP CGSJ Secretary

Chev. Peter Robertson KJSJ Treasurer

Dame Leonie Clyne OAM CGSJ

Senior Members in the Order

Grand Prior Emeritus

Bailiff Emeritus Victor Techritz AM CMSJ

Prior Emeritus

Bailiff Emeritus The Hon. Roger Goldsworthy AO CMSJ

Bailiff Brian North AO, RFD, OSJ Chancellor



congenial afternoon and it was a pleasure to present each new member with their diploma and information kit. A highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of a cheque to the value of \$15,000 to Ms Lorna Riddle, the Executive Director of the Mary Potter Foundation by our Treasurer, Chevalier Peter Robertson KJSJ. The care and support provided by the Mary Potter Hospice to their patients and families is emphasised in a personal story related later in the newsletter.

Congratulations to Dame Rosemary Brooks OAM, DJSJ who was named in the Queen's Birthday honour list. Dame Rosemary was recognised for her service to tertiary education.

Sadly, we have seen the passing of two members, Chevalier Vili Milisits OAM KJSJ and Chevalier Ray Stanley AM OBE RFD ED KSJ. Tributes to each Knight appear in this newsletter. Both members were highly regarded and will be long missed.

Chevalier Tony Woods CJSJ Prior

Our modern Sovereign Order of St. John is an ecumenical, international, Christian organization directly descended from the close collaboration of Crusader Knights with the Hospitaller activities at the Hospice founded before the turn of the 12th Century by Amalfi merchants for pilgrims in Jerusalem.

ORDER OF SAINT JOHN BEQUESTS

The Priory Administrative Council has endorsed receiving bequests on behalf of the Mary Potter Foundation.

This can be done through the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller Australasia. Chevalier Marcus La Vincente has drafted a clause that can be included in a will that directs any bequest to the Foundation. Marcus can be contacted for a confidential discussion and his contact details are in the Roll of Honour.

The Mary Potter Hospice is one of the most important and highly regarded providers of in-patient palliative and end of life care. Hundreds of patients and their families every year are so grateful for the compassion, the dignity and the love that the Hospice team brings into their lives.



The next in our series of “Know your Officers”

Chevalier David Wilckens CJSJ

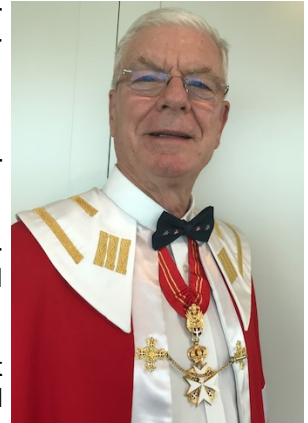
Grand Prior Australia New Zealand

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 was 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; and other mentoring in assisting and advising the start up of small construction businesses in Adelaide .

Together with Jill, David has 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.



Investiture 2021

The sun peeped through the clouds on an otherwise grey Saturday on 26th June 2021 to shine on the Investiture of 3 Dames (Gaelle Clements, Christine Ferguson and Carren Walker) and 3 Knights (Grant Chapman, Phil Hoffman, and Gerald Lipman). As we entered the hall at Christ Church, North Adelaide, we were met with a sea of red silk, white trim and gold crosses - a sight to behold.

With the formalities of the AGM for the Grand Priory and the SA Priory completed, we were marshalled into our processional order by our Marshal, Chevalier Robert Black and given our final instructions by our Prelate, Canon David O'Neill. They were so patient, calm and generous with their knowledge, both at the rehearsal and on the day of the Investiture, putting our minds at ease about the ceremony that was to come: *just enjoy, we'll be with you every step of the way*. As we processed from the hall and into the grand spaces of the church, we had Knights and Dames leading us on and following from behind. They formed an honourable and colourful guard.



The service was joyful, moving, stirring. I took to heart those wonderful words that we sang together in full voice: *Brother sister, let me serve you* (and given the frequent bans on singing due to the pandemic in recent times, it was a real treat to be able to sing together). As I knelt at the altar, ready to take my vows and be created a Dame, I glanced to my right, and saw my fellow aspirants, all heads bowed, all humbly kneeling and ready to recommit ourselves to the service of our God and our community. I wondered what they were thinking, what was in their hearts and minds? I have asked some of them to share their reflections on the day:

I was moved by the Investiture itself, both in the ceremony and the pageantry and the overall religious feeling generated by us taking the vows when kneeling down in the church. I too was overwhelmed by so many people from the Order making us feel so welcomed. (Phil Hoffman)

I thought the musical aspect beautiful, the clarity of the bugle, the singing of the choir and the beautiful voices emanating from the main body of the assembled congregation. The intimate splendour of Christ Church must never be overlooked. Indeed, a most memorable day. (Gaelle Clements)

Until I was asked to join the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem I had little knowledge of the Order, but I did know about 10 or 20 of the SA Priory, and all of these were people I respected. The warmth of the welcome I received from so many has been encouraging. Even Knights and Dames who were not at the investiture have made contact with me. I look forward to many years of active service. (Gerald Lipman)

The joyful celebrations continued over luncheon with free flowing food, drink and conversation. The presentations our Certificates of Appointment were particularly meaningful. I was delighted when so many members of the Order approached me over the course of the afternoon to say "hello" and to chat with me and my family. I look forward to getting to know you all better, learning more about the Order and growing in faith and service with my fellow Knights and Dames.

Dame Carren Walker DSJ



Meetings and Promotions 2021



Chevalier Fred Trueman APM KGSJ



Dame Leonie Clyne CGSJ



Chevalier Carl Aiken JP KGSJ



Chevalier Harold Lane OAM CJSJ



Chevalier Peter Robertson KJSJ



Chevalier Robert Lawson QC RFD CGSJ



Chevalier Jim Howard AM RFD CGSJ



**Chevalier John Spencer OAM
RFD JP KGSJ**

Unable to attend due to Ill Health



Dame Rosemary Brooks OAM JP DJSJ

Unable to attend due to COVIT
restrictions



Investiture 2021





Investiture 2021





Investiture 2021





New Knights and Dames

Chevalier Grant Chapman KSJ

Grant was born in 1949 and educated at Prince Alfred College and the University of Adelaide. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Honours, degree and later undertook post-graduate business management studies. He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

After working in the oil industry Grant was elected to the Australian Parliament as Liberal Member for the seat of Kingston in 1975, holding it until 1983. He then established a management consulting firm but returned to the Parliament as a Liberal Senator for South Australia in 1987, retiring from the Senate in 2008.

Grant then re-established his consulting firm and maintained oversight of family farming/grazing properties at Kybunga/Blyth and Hawker. In 2017, he was appointed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Grant is involved in a range of voluntary activities, including as the People's Warden, St Matthew's Anglican Church, Kensington, a member of the Anglican Synod, a Director of Anglicare SA; and President, Kensington District Cricket Club. He has also served as President of the Liberal Party (SA Division) and as a member of the Liberal Party Federal Executive.

Grant is married to Sally and they have a married son, two grandsons and a daughter.



Dame Gaelle Clements DSJ

Gaelle was educated at St Michael's Anglican Girl's Grammar School, Melbourne. She took up nursing training and practice at Prince Henry's Hospital Victoria in 1961, followed by a period of midwifery at the Royal Women's Hospital.

She completed a BA at University of Adelaide in 1992 and a Masters Degree in Social Science at James Cook University in 2000.

In 1965 she married David Clements KSJ and they have three children. When David became Dean of International House at Melbourne University she was his Associate and in 1967 Gaelle again became David's Associate at the Ancaster Residential Hall at the University of Nottingham, England.

In 1973 they moved to Adelaide where Gaelle studied Fine Arts while volunteering as a Guide at the Art Gallery, a role she held for ten years. In 1983, David was appointed as Master of Kathleen Lumley Residential College and for the next 30 years they worked together at the college.

Gaelle has worked as a Health Educator at the Queen Victoria Hospital and as an Educator at the Royal Adelaide Hospital Health Promotion Unit. She also Tutored in Post Graduate Art History at the University of Adelaide.





New Knights and Dames

Dame Christine Ferguson DSJ

Christine Ferguson was born in the United Kingdom and spent her childhood in Nigeria, West Africa and Papua New Guinea. During this period, she supported charities including the Ryder-Chase Foundation home for children affected by the Biafran War. Arriving in Australia with her family in her late teens, she settled in Adelaide and has been involved in fundraising and support for many charities including the Mary Potter Hospice.



Having travelled extensively and lived in many countries, Christine has a strong understanding of the value of diversity and inclusion within communities. Professionally, Christine has had a path through the health industry, event management, and commercial and residential property management. She has now returned to health care, working in the aged care, dementia and disability sectors. She plans to specialise in supported living housing through universal design concepts to enable more people to remain independent and in their own homes.

Christine's greatest accomplishment and most rewarding role has been caring for her immediate family for many years. She has three children and is married to Shane, her husband of 20 years.

Christine feels privileged and honoured to be asked to join the Order. She has a real passion and is looking forward to helping further develop community support through the work of the Order.



Chevalier Gerald Lipman KSJ

Gerald Lipman is the former Chief Executive of the International College of Hotel Management (ICHM), based in Adelaide.

After qualifying as a chartered accountant in Adelaide, Gerald joined the Royal Bank of Canada, and spent almost 25 years as an international banker, living in Canada, three countries in Europe, Singapore and China. He joined ICHM in 1998, building it into Australia's leading hotel management education college, with programs up to Master's Degree and graduates from almost 100 countries around the world.



Gerald has played an active role in a number of industry associations: The Association of Australia-Pacific Hotel Schools (EUHOFA), an international association of hotel schools; the South Australian education promotion body Study Adelaide; and the Australian Government's Council for International Education, an advisory group for the Minister of Education.

Since retiring from ICHM, Gerald has been operating *Lipman Advisory* providing consulting advice in a number of areas. He is a member of the board of an indigenous school start up, and is active in the St Peter's Cathedral community.

Gerald is married to Louise and has three children.



New Knights and Dames

Chevalier Philip Hoffmann AM KSJ

Phil Hoffmann is well known for his work in the travel and tourism industry.

Originally a teacher, Phil was also a Senior Lecturer of Staff Development for TAFE.

In 1990 Phil established a tourism business that has grown from one location with two staff, to now employing over 220 staff in ten branches.

Phil and Phil Hoffman Travel have won many awards, including the AFTA National Travel Industry Association's Travel Agent of the Year Award on twelve occasions, and a Legend Award in recognition of outstanding service and support to the National Tourism Industry Training Committee in 1999 and 2006. Phil Hoffman Travel was inducted into the Family Business Association Hall of Fame in 2011.

With training and education still a passion, Phil voluntarily lectures TAFE Travel and Tourism students and broadens their knowledge and experience by hosting students at his agency.

Phil has been a Member of the Adelaide Convention and Tourist Authority Board, is a Member of the Advisory Board for the University of Adelaide Business School and a Director of Adelaide Festival Centre.

Phil was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2012 for his contribution to the travel and tourism industries.



Dame Carren Walker DSJ

Carren is a lawyer and legislative drafter within the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, South Australia, and an active member of the legal profession in South Australia. She is involved in several professional groups associated with promoting understanding and education about the law and parliamentary democracy.

Carren's career has included several positions in the Parliament of South Australia, including as a senior legal and policy advisor to Members of Parliament and Research and Executive Officer to different parliamentary committees.

Carren is an active member of the Anglican Church in Australia. At a parish level, she has served in several official roles including warden, parish councillor, church organist, choir director and youth group coordinator. Within the Anglican Church more broadly, she has served on the Professional Standards Committee and in 2019 was appointed by General Synod as the women's representative for Australia at the Council of the Church in East Asia Conference.

Carren is a pianist, an organist and also involved in music education as a music examiner for several music schools. In her spare time, Carren is an avid book reader and enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends.





The Siege of Malta

By the end of 1522, Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Sultan, had forcibly ejected the Knights from their base on Rhodes after the six-month siege of Rhodes. From 1523 to 1530 the Order lacked a permanent home. They became known as the Knights of Malta when, on 26 October 1530, Philippe Villiers de L'Isle-Adam, Grand Master of the Knights, sailed into Malta's Grand Harbour with a number of his followers to lay claim to Malta and Gozo, which had been granted to them by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in return for one falcon sent annually to the Viceroy of Sicily and a solemn Mass to be celebrated on All Saints Day. Charles also required the Knights to garrison Tripoli on the North African coast, which was in territory that the Barbary Corsairs, allies of the Ottomans, controlled. The Knights accepted the offer reluctantly. Malta was a small, desolate island, and for some time, many of the Knights clung to the dream of recapturing Rhodes.

Nevertheless, the Order soon turned Malta into a naval base. The island's position in the centre of the Mediterranean made it a strategically crucial gateway between East and West, especially as the Barbary Corsairs increased their forays into the western Mediterranean throughout the 1540s and 1550s.

In particular, the corsair Dragut was proving to be a major threat to the Christian nations of the central Mediterranean. Dragut and the Knights were continually at loggerheads. In 1551, Dragut and the Ottoman admiral Sinan decided to take Malta and invaded the island with a force of about 10,000 men. After only a few days, however, Dragut broke off the siege and moved to the neighbouring island of Gozo, where he bombarded the Cittadella for several days. The Knights' governor on Gozo, Gelatian de Sessa, having decided that resistance was futile, threw open the doors to the Cittadella. The corsairs sacked the town and took virtually the entire population of Gozo (approximately 5,000 people) into captivity. Dragut and Sinan then sailed south to Tripoli, where they soon seized the Knights' garrison there. They initially installed a local leader, Aga Morat, as governor, but subsequently Dragut himself took control of the area.

Expecting another Ottoman invasion within a year, Grand Master of the Knights Juan de Homedes ordered the strengthening of Fort Saint Angelo at the tip of Birgu (now Vittoriosa), as well as the construction of two new forts, Fort Saint Michael on the Senglea promontory and Fort Saint Elmo at the seaward end of Mount Sciberras (now Valletta). The two new forts were built in the remarkably short period of six months in 1552. All three forts proved crucial during the Great Siege.

The next several years were relatively calm, although the *guerre de course*, or *running battle*, between Muslims and Christians continued unabated. In 1557 the Knights elected Jean Parisot de Valette Grand Master of the Order. He continued his raids on non-Christian shipping, and his private vessels are known to have taken some 3,000 Muslim and Jewish slaves during his tenure as Grand Master.

All known techniques of siege warfare were employed during the siege of Malta. Turkish forces had a huge siege tower with a drawbridge from which sharpshooters fired over the walls of Fort St. Angelo. The tower was constructed to be resistant to fire with leather sheets kept moist from water tanks contained inside the tower. Despite this, Maltese masons had hidden artillery within the walls, leaving the outer masonry in place to conceal it from view. Concealed from sight, the defenders were able to move the canon into position, loaded with chain shot without revealing its location to the Turks, who had al-



ready taken positions in the tower when it was destroyed.

The Turkish armada, which set sail from Constantinople on 22 March, was by all accounts one of the largest assembled since antiquity. According to one of the earliest and most complete histories of the siege, that of the Order's official historian Giacomo Bosio, the fleet consisted of 193 vessels, which included 131 galleys, seven galliots (small galleys), and four galleasses (large galleys), the remainder being transport vessels, etc. Contemporary letters from Don Garcia, the Viceroy of Sicily, give similar numbers.

Jean "Parisot" de la Valette (4 February 1495 – 21 August 1568) was a French nobleman and 49th Grand Master of the Order of Malta, from 21 August 1557 to his death in 1568. As a Knight Hospitaller, joining the order in the *Langue de Provence*, he fought with distinction against the Turks at Rhodes. As Grand Master, Valette became the leader, commanding men at the Great Siege of Malta in 1565, some of the greatest sieges of all time.

The foundation stone of Valletta was laid by Grandmaster La Valette in 1566. He did not live to see Valletta completed, as he died in 1568 and was succeeded by Grandmaster Pierre de Monte.



Newsletter Production

Chevalier Peter Summers OAM CGSJ

Chevalier Fred Trueman APM KGSJ





In Memory

Chevalier Vilmos (Vili) Milisits OAM KJStJ

Vilmos (Vili) Milisits was born in 1948 the 8th and youngest child of Teresa and Istvan Milisits, both chefs, in a small village on the border of Hungary and Austria. Vili was brought up on a farm with his siblings and attended the local village school. His father Istvan was taken as a political prisoner under the Nazi regime and then later sent to a work camp under communist rule.



When Vili was eight years old his family fled Hungary on foot during the 1956 uprising, fleeing with only their clothes, papers and a feather quilt that his father had plucked the geese to fill. They registered with the Red Cross at the border and became refugees. They initially were housed in an Austrian chalet by a generous Austrian and then moved onto Graz, before relocation to London where they lived in a previously bombed building. Vili attended a private school in London under a sponsorship, but struggled with not knowing a word of English. He loved Maths because it was the same in every language.

After two years, in about 1959 the family became eligible for residency in Australia. They were sent to Italy and boarded the ship from Trieste bound for Melbourne, with a condition of entry that they settle in Adelaide. His family of sixteen, rented a one-bedroom house in Carrington Street. The older siblings went to work and Vili attended St Joseph's Primary School at Hectorville. The family pooled their money with three other families and bought a deceased estate in Stepney. The four families lived there until they were able to build their own houses side by side on land at Campbelltown. Vili then went to Campbelltown High School where he was voted least likely to succeed.

Vili's father died when he was fourteen and his mother sent him to do an apprenticeship as a pastry cook. He worked at Kazzys Cakes at Burnside. Once qualified he leased some equipment from Kazzy and sold his car to purchase his first week of ingredients and started Vili's. His first bakery was located on Fullarton Road at Beulah Park .

He had met Rosemary, a nurse at Wakefield Street Hospital, at a friend's birthday party and Vili would frequently drop around cakes for all the nurses. They married in 1968 and their son Simon was born in 1969 and his daughter Alison came later. Soon after Simon was born, Vili bought a house in Mile End, where he built a bakery in the back yard and where the family bakery is still located today.

Vili had many interests and hobbies, but his family and fishing, were his main love. He played soccer for Hellas Western Soccer Club Adelaide and league Ten Pin Bowling for over 30 years. He loved tennis with he took it up in his forties and enjoying playing socially. Vili loved camping and the simple things in life. He explored all of Australia in the car on road trips or with the Variety Club Bush Bash.

Vili was a man of many words who was passionate about life, a man of principles, he was gentle, humble, patient, caring, generous and whose philanthropy knew no bounds. He challenged himself and others to reach their full potential and saw the best in people and will be missed by his extended family, the Order of St John.



In Memory

Raymond John Stanley AM OBE RJD CD

Raymond John Stanley, also known as Ray, or RJS, and when at Scotch College, known by his pupils as Chook. Ray was born on 11th July 1928 in Gawler, South Australia and was the son of John Carew Stanley and Eileen Elsie, nee McGeorge. Ray grew up in Gawler just before the great depression. His father was a butcher and during WW2 Ray worked in the butcher's shop, where he did the deliveries for the butchers and then telegrams for the PMG. During the war Ray became fascinated with both military and commercial planes which led to a lifelong interest in aviation and obtaining his pilots' licence.

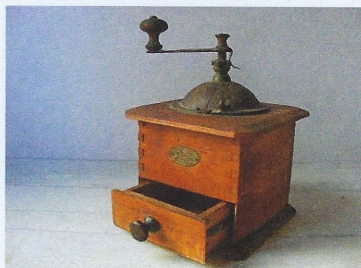


Ray studied at the University of Adelaide and graduated with a Diploma of Education, in 1956, and a Bachelor of Science, in 1958. Ray taught science and chemistry, with his first appointment at Robe High School, but soon took up a position as house master at Scotch College, Adelaide, until 1959. He first went to St Peter's College as a Senior Master in 1960 until 1969, followed by a two-year stint at Marlborough College, England, as Assistant Master. He re-joined St Peter's College in 1971 as Assistant Headmaster, until 1983, then Department Headmaster, with some periods as Acting Headmaster, from 1984 until his retirement. Ray was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in June 2004 for his services to education.

Ray's first association with the Australian Defence Force was when he joined the Australian Army Cadet Corps while at school. This led to a long and distinguished career in the South Australian 3/9th Light Horse, Army Reserve, reaching the rank of Colonel. Ray was recognised with an Order of the British Empire, (OBE), for his service to the Army Reserve, in January 1968. He was selected to parade before the Queen and Prince Philip during their 1954 visit to Australia. This began a lifelong connection with Prince Philip and he presented Prince Philip with a ceremonial sceptre at St Paul's Cathedral, London, in 2008 on behalf of the Order of Australia Association.

Ray was invested as a Knight in the Order of St John of Jerusalem, in June 2012. Ray was a Fellow: Royal Australian Chemical Institute, and Member: the United Services Institute, the Australian Council of Educational Administration, the Australian College of Education, and the Naval, Military and Air Force Club (President 1979-1981). Ray married Valma Jean Duffield in August 1956 and they had two sons, Robin and Russell. After Valma died, Ray met Joan and they spent the last four years of his life together. Ray had a sense of adventure and loved to travel, he was an intelligent yet humble man, with a quirky sense of humour. He will be missed by the Priory of St John and many others.





Are you in for a Coffee?

Coffee started to gain popularity in

Europe around the mid-17th century, Malta's connection to it seems to go back around a century earlier.

In fact, some believe that Malta was the very first European country where coffee was introduced, most probably through Turkish slaves, who prepared their traditional beverage in the prisons where they were kept. A statement from a German traveller in the mid-1600s talks of this strange concoction of a powder resembling snuff tobacco, which the Turks mixed with water and sugar, and which they could sell to earn some extra money.

Soon the Knights themselves became very fond of this drink and would visit the *Bagno degli Schiavi* (Slaves' Prison) because this was where the best quality coffee could be found.

This theory is of course quite plausible considering that the Ottomans at this time had full control over the coffee trade, and later introduced it to the rest of Europe through Venice, with whom they enjoyed very strong trade relations, but this does not totally exclude other possible ways how this product could have found its way into Malta at such an early stage. Piracy cannot be excluded, as Maltese corsairs would have undoubtedly confiscated coffee grains, along with other cargo, during their continuous raids against Ottoman shipping, while it could also have first been offered to a Grand Master as a gift from some North African prince or bey, or it could have entered through other European merchants, most likely French, who traded with the Orient.

The Knights' fondness for coffee soon led to its introduction in Maltese high society. Coffee started to be imported regularly, and its popularity was such that soon numerous coffee shops sprouted all around Valletta, making it easily available to people from all levels of society, and proving testament to the high demand for it.

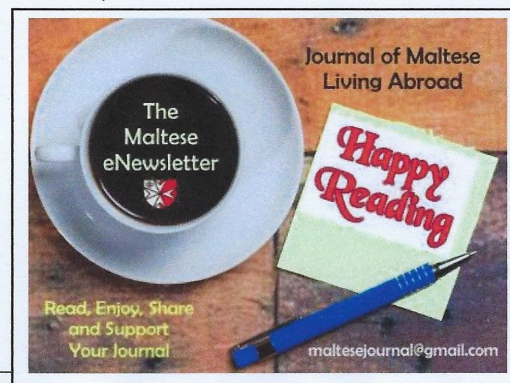


The Grand Master even had a waiter employed as part of his magisterial household at the palace, known as the *Garzone del Caffè*, whose sole job was to prepare and serve him coffee!

According to a 17th century document found at the National Archives, for the perfect cup of coffee one needed coffee beans, a special coffee pot made of copper, and to know how to recite the Apostles' Creed. Coffee, it was recommended, should be left to brew for as long as it took to recite this prayer.

Like today, coffee was normally served at the end of a meal, together with the dessert, often a piece of cake or other pastry. Interestingly though, coffee was also believed to be a remedy for many ills.

A 17th century treatise about coffee, written in Malta by a certain Domenico Magri, claims that coffee was good for the lungs, the liver and the stomach amongst others, while, according to him, the Turks, who consumed copious amounts of this substance, never seemed to suffer from toothache, gout and other infirmities. (Matthew Camilleri)





Mary Potter Care

Catherine was a smart, highly-respected recruitment consultant. She had a loving family and wonderful friends. She loved Celine Dion, and everything about Christmas.

Three weeks after she turned 32, this beautiful young woman died in Mary Potter Hospice.

But while Catherine was in the Hospice, you helped add life to her days.

You gave Catherine and her girlfriends a Pizza, Cheese & Wine Night – a night of normality and fun together.

You made sure Catherine got the special hot chocolate sachets she loved. When COVID-19 meant that her favourite hot chocolate was in short supply, Catherine told her mum 'We're going on a (bear) chocolate hunt' to find her favourite Douwe Egbert sachets in other Calvary ward kitchens. She got what she was looking for! But you made sure there was also a special tin of Lindt Hot Chocolate, marshmallows and cookies waiting for Catherine in her room.

Catherine's birthday was approaching while she was in the Hospice. She wanted to go home and wake up one last time in her own bed on that special day. Catherine's mum Heather remembers: "Before we took her home that night, the Hospice asked me what her favourite cake was. She was a savoury girl, she wasn't into cakes – but since she'd been in the Hospice, she loved sweet things. The only cake I knew she really liked was a bee-sting."

Thanks to you, when Catherine ing for her were two of her nurses loons, champagne and a beautiful phone and sent a photo to her You were behind this special mo-

Heather told us: "The Hospice was of atmosphere there. The staff doctors were amazing. The nursing more about the treatment, but we your days as special as they can

And because of you, Catherine cause of your generous support of rine was able to create special art- erine's parents, Heather and Larry, both Catherine and their family.



came back to the Hospice on her birthday, wait- with a surprise birthday trolley. There were bal- bee-sting cake. Catherine whipped out her friends – she was so surprised and delighted. ment. Thank you.

simply wonderful. There's really a different kind were just the dearest people, so caring, and the care was beautiful. In the Oncology ward, it's realised that in the Hospice it's about making be. It's about treating the whole person."

found her artistic side while in the Hospice. Be- the Fra Angelico Creative Arts program, Cath- pieces that her family will treasure forever. Cath- are so grateful for what the program did – for

"This arts program was such a valuable experience for Catherine and for our family. It truly supported all of us – firstly by doing it, and then in receiving the treasured pieces (which were so beautifully wrapped and presented). Fra Angelico is an incredible program, and it has meant so much to our family. It is a wonderful way for families to connect, enjoy and be supported."

"We can't thank the Hospice enough – an amazing group of people who Catherine and ourselves grew to love."



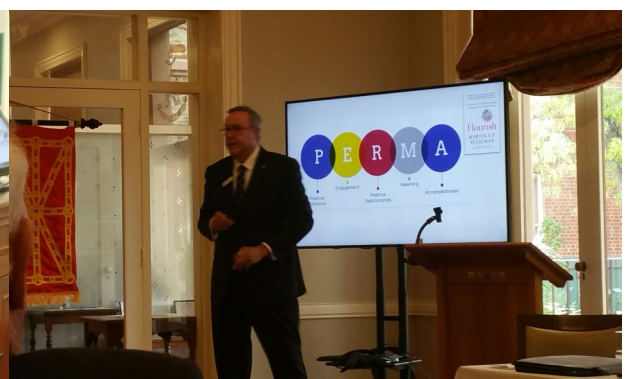


The Order's Activities



Vili's Funeral service

Investiture Rehearsal



May monthly meeting

