

LE CHEVALIER



November 2021



Interior of the Palazzo de Malta

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



Prior's Report

Chevalier Tony Woods CJSJ Prior

As I have noted on many occasions, we in SA have been very effective in containing Covid-19 to the extent that Priory operations are essentially functioning as usual. We look to the future with the expectation that the impact of the pandemic will remain low as borders reopen and international travel again becomes possible. This is of particular importance to those in the Order wishing to attend the Sovereign Council meeting in Malta next April. However, we are reminded constantly that overseas travel will only be possible for those fully vaccinated and coverage is sufficient to provide some level of community protection.

The proportion of the community that must be vaccinated to achieve effective population ('herd') immunity varies with each disease but is a function of the infectivity of the condition. For example, herd immunity against measles, a highly contagious disease, requires around 95% of the population to be vaccinated; polio requires around 80% while for the "flu", levels between 40 and 74% are required depending on the "flu" variant. At these levels, the chain of transmission is broken and spread of the disease is curtailed. While it is not clear at this point exactly what threshold is necessary to provide protection against Covid-19, it makes sense to be aiming for the highest level possible. And as I write, some jurisdictions are well on track to achieve greater than 90% fully vaccinated. The 'take-home' message from all this is to ensure you and all those you know are fully vaccinated!

It is welcome news that the SA border will open on November 23 for those with family and friends living interstate. We especially look forward to seeing those in and from Victoria after having endured such an extensive lockdown.

It was a real pleasure to represent the Priory at the Tasmanian Chapter Meeting on Saturday, September 18, which was followed by the Commissioning of the Prior of Tasmania Chevalier Ed Gauden. This was a wonderful ceremony and I thank Prior Ed and our Tasmanian brothers and sisters for their very warm welcome and generous hospitality.

I would like to acknowledge the exceptional generosity and commitment of all members who continue to contribute funds for our primary charity the Mary Potter Foundation. All will be aware that current restrictions have precluded holding our Annual Film Event which is intended to raise funds from outside the Order. To compensate, we are holding the Special Raffle which will be drawn at the Christmas Dinner and I commend all for their support with selling tickets. I will say more at the time, but I take this opportunity to convey our sincere thanks to the prize donors, Chevalier Gary Lines KSJ, Grand Prior Chevalier David Wilckens CJSJ and Chevalier Geoff Walsh JP KSJ. I also acknowledge the generosity of two members: Chevalier



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 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 DJSJ Grand Priory
Extension Co-ordinator Lieutenant

Chev. Prof. Tony Woods CJSJ SA Prior

Chev. Graeme Gately 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



Prior's report continued from the previous page

David Meyer KSJ an amateur apiarist, for providing his honey products for sale; and Vice Chancellor, Chevalier Peter Summers OAM CGSJ, an amateur silversmith, for creating and donating his superb jewellery items for auction at monthly meetings. The funds raised from all these activities go directly to the Mary Potter Foundation.

At the October Grand Priory Council meeting, the Grand Priory Archivist, Dame Mary Lewis, announced she will be standing down from her role in February next year having been appointed in 2011. As well as maintaining and updating the records, Dame Mary also wrote the history of the Order in Australia as a commemoration of our 50-year anniversary and created the inspiring 'Hymn to the Order' which will feature in future Investitures. On behalf of the SA Priory I thank Dame Mary for her outstanding contributions over many years.

The Siege of Malta 2021 Cocktail Party

The Cocktail Party to celebrate the lifting of the Siege of Malta was held at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club on Friday, 10 September 2021. Minimal SA COVID 19 restrictions permitted a 'normal stand-up' function held in the Dining Room and the veranda.

Once again, pianist Ms Sue Moorhead provided much appreciated piano music which was successfully piped through the venue, for the pleasure of all.

Chevalier Henry d'Assumpcao gave an excellent audio-visual presentation of the lifting of the Siege of Malta that was received with enthusiasm and acclaim.

A raffle was held, the cost of the ticket was included in the event cost; first prize of a dozen mixed wines was won by Chevalier David Caruso, second prize of a bottle of Hugo Reserve Shiraz by Chevalier Robert Lawson.

The South Australian Malta Consul, Ms Carmen Spiteri and her husband Venny, attended as Priory guests. Carmen spoke about Malta and its tourism highlights and the culture of the Maltese people. She confirmed the great honour she felt at her consular appointment, which she was greatly enjoying, and expressed her appreciation to the OSJ for having been invited to this celebratory event.

An excellent attendance of members and guests attended and members donations to Mary Potter Foundation amount to \$1,070. Thirty-one members and guests remained for a casual bar meal which was served in the Imperial Room.

Our thanks to Chevalier Don Stewart, and the Events Committee, for organising a very hospitable and enjoyable gathering for Dames and Knights.





The Siege of Malta 2021 Cocktail Party





The Siege of Malta 2021 Cocktail Party





The next in our series of “Know your Officers”

Chevalier Don Stewart CSSJ

Chair of the Function Committee

Priory Marshal

Chevalier Don Stewart was born in Adelaide and grew up in the beachside suburb of Somerton Park where he attended the local High School. While at primary school he had been confined to a wheel-bed with polio for over a year; fortunately without being left with the serious long term problems suffered by so many.

He was still at school when his WWI veteran father died and Legacy, the charitable organisation that assists the families of deceased and disabled veterans, supported the family. Nevertheless they were difficult times.

Don and his younger brother became very involved in sport: baseball and in summer tennis, most probably to the detriment of academic achievement!

With the aim of eventually becoming an engineer, he joined the then SA Engineering and Water Supply Department as a draughtsman. Study was at the then SA Institute of Technology on North Terrace, after working hours.

About this time, due to instability in the region, the Commonwealth Government decided to increase the size of the Army. It introduced a two-year National Service Scheme in which 20 year-old males were required to register for service in the Army. Birthdates were drawn from a barrel to produce the required number of recruits.

This random exercise saw Don in the Army and he still has the New Testament presented to him by the church. Selected for officer training, after six very demanding months, he graduated as a second lieutenant destined to become a platoon commander in an infantry battalion.

As a reinforcement to the Australian battalion based in Malaysia, he soon found himself leading an infantry platoon on operations against Indonesian ‘volunteers’ in Sarawak, Borneo. It was towards the end of Indonesia’s ‘Confrontation’ against the recently formed Malaysia. Afterwards a much more relaxing time was had based in the large Commonwealth army garrison near Malacca in peninsula Malaysia.

About this time, the unit was warned for service in South Vietnam and Don and a number of others felt they should sign-on to stay with their colleagues. Some thirty years later he found himself in Adelaide at what became his last posting prior to retiring as a lieutenant colonel. In the interim he had a wide range of appointments and postings including an ADC appointment, time in PNG, peacekeeping in Egypt (Sinai), staff college and Joint Services staff college and project management training in the US. While in Canberra he completed a Graduate Diploma in Administration to provide a basic civilian element to his military education. However, the closest he came to that youthful object of engineering was managing an army materiel acquisition project!

He retained an association with the Reserves and for some seven years held the appointment of Regimental Colonel of the Royal South Australia Regiment.

Don had renewed his association with Legacy in Adelaide, this time as a volunteer, and on leaving the army became the General Manager/CEO of Legacy in SA and Broken Hill, a position he held for 13 years. On retirement he reverted to his Legacy volunteer status and continued to be very involved with Legacy including as a Director of Legacy Australia, the national body. He was recently elected President of SA and Broken Hill Legacy.

Don was honoured to be invested as a chevalier in our Order in 2015.

Socially he has been tackling the challenges of golf croquet and spends much of his remaining time reading, mostly military and related history, and keeping abreast of international issues. Remaining time is spent with wider family here in Adelaide





The First Dames of the Order of St John

South Australia

Twenty five years ago, Dame Mignon Laurenti Ellicott OAM and Dame Shirley Gertrude Symons OAM were invested into the Order of St. John within South Australia, thus beginning of the equal recognition of women into our Priory. The path by which their investiture occurred in 1996 is both curious and ambiguous, best determined by the “recollections” of senior Knights and Dames, and spiced with a little speculation.

Formal recognition of women within the international OSJ is recorded as having occurred in 1964 when the King Peter II Constitution was amended to allow male and female members and, subsequently in 2004, when women were given equal rights. The reasoning and nature of changes made in and between 1964 and 2004 is unclear at this time.

It is clear that Dames were invested relatively early in Australia and, like Chevalier Dr. Baden Teague, our South Australian Priory Archivist, I suspect this was influenced by the Australian anti-discrimination laws which emerged at State and Federal government levels between 1975-85. Some sources indicate that women were being admitted to the OSJ, in N.S.W. and Queensland, as early as 1984. More specifically, Dame Mary Lewis, our Grand Priory Archivist, recalls that the Geelong Commandery admitted its first woman as a Dame in 1994. She was invested in 1996, and Prior Barbara Abley, of the Victorian Priory, was invested in 1998.

How Dame’s Mignon Ellicott and Shirley Symons were selected is probably only known by our inaugural Prior, Doug Symons OAM. He ran the affairs of the South Australian Priory fairly singularly at that stage and the emergence of the current administrative processes, and records, began with Prior Roger Goldsworthy. In any event, Doug was a consummate networker, indefatigable “driver”, and passionate leader of the OSJ. So, it is no surprise that his wife Shirley, who had been his active supporter in OSJ matters, and Mignon who was prominent in Adelaide circles, were on his radar.

Not much can be said about the process of their selection but the quality of their selection is beyond doubt – particularly as recalled by our senior Dames and Knights.

Dame Shirley Symons is vividly remembered as having

always been present at OSJ meetings “doing something, with Doug”, so no doubt a collaborative contribution to the early development of our Priory. Whilst this might have been the way of partners then, Shirley made a significant public contribution in her own right as is recorded in her OAM citation:

For service to the community of Adelaide, particularly through the Order of St. John

of Jerusalem, the Australian Red Cross and the Good Neighbour Council of Australia.



Dame Mignon Ellicott OAM DSJ

The Good Neighbour Council was a humanitarian Commonwealth Government program, operating between 1949 – 1972, which promoted assimilation during the post-World War 2, period, and has since been replaced a range of multicultural organisations, whilst the Australian Red Cross continues to provide a broad range of humanitarian activities.

Dame Mignon Ellicott seems to have been more of pioneering woman and “character” in her professional life. Educated at Walford Girls School until 1933, she was a Bonds Travel Hostess for 3 years, before working in Air Force Intelligence during World War 2, before then assuming employment in the ABC publicity department. One senses she found this restrictive and was assigned as an ABC reporter, of law courts and Trades and Labour Council matters. Her greater public contribution was as the first female member of the Public Relations Institute of S.A., when she was the benefactor of the Laurenti Ellicott Award in Public Relations, and also the President of the Adelaide Press Club. Her OAM citation encapsulates her achievements thus: “For service to the community as the benefactor of the Laurenti Ellicott Awards for Excellence in Public Relations in South Australia, and as a donor to charitable and other organisations”.



Continued

The First Dames

Dame's Shirley Symons and Mignon Ellicott made significant contributions in different respects. Consistent with the conventions of married women of the time, Dame Shirley Symons contributed to voluntary activities within the civic realm of society – a realm somewhat underwhelmed in current times.

Dame Mignon Ellicott made her contribution in a professional



Dame Shirley Symons OAM DCSJ MMS

sense and was no doubt publicly influential in respect of the social issues of the time. Both women's achievements were additional to their maternal and family roles.

As the attached schedule reveals, there have now been 24 women invested as Dames, since Shirley and

Mignon were invested. Each of their profiles reveals the same diversity of experience and expertise, in a professional or civic sense.

One of the things I value about the OSJ, particularly given the predominantly male world of my experience, is the voice that Dames offer me in contemplating their gendered experiences, and I am so appreciative of the S.A. Priory's recognition and admittance Dames, 25 years ago, so that it might be so.

Chevalier M G (Fred) Trueman APM KGSJ

DAMES APPOINTED TO S.A. ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

1996: Shirley Symons (deceased 2017) AND Mignon Ellicott (deceased 2010).

2000: Dianne Ramsay (deceased 2017).

2008: Margaret Hamilton & Joan Mead (deceased 2017).

2009: Merle Gowan, transferred to NSW 2012.

2011: Rosemary Brooks, Ann (Bin) Irwin, Jill Moore.

2012: Ella Tyler.

2014: Mary Sutherland.

2016: Leonie Clyne, Di. (Dianne) Davidson, Patsy Murray, Carolyn Grantskalns.

2017: Edith Miller, Margaret Nyland.

2018: Mary Withers, Julie Potts.

2019: Helen Edwards & Beverly Arnold.

2020: Nil.

2021: Gaelle Clements, Carren Walker, Christine Ferguson.

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.



OSJ Meetings

At the **September meeting**, Chevalier Captain Pearson CSC RAN KSJ enthralled members with a talk on “Naval Ship-building in Australia”. His talk began with an historical outline of naval-ship building since 1916 to the present, before elaborating on the ship building program planned till 2040. This was followed by a “walk through” of the process of building a warship at the Osborne facility, using the Hobart Class Guided Missile Destroyers and the Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessels as an example.

Mrs Rosemary Milisits visited the meeting, and spoke to the meeting thanking the Members for their thought and sincere condolences on the death of her husband Vili.

Chevalier John Spencer OAM RFD JP KGSJ was formally presented with his certificate of promotion at this meeting as he was unable to attend the Chapter Meeting.



Fast Fact:

Standing around burns calories. On average, a 150-pound person burns 114 calories per hour while standing and doing nothing.





OSJ Meetings

The **October meeting** ; Chevalier David Caruso KSJ LLB presented a talk titled, “The Perils of the After Dinner Speech”, an enthralling analysis of the art and pitfalls of after dinner speeches, much to the amusement and acclaim of members

The usual jewellery auction and honey sales raised funds for the Mary Potter Foundation.



Fast Fact:

At birth, a baby panda is smaller than a mouse.



Newsletter Production

Chevalier Peter Summers OAM CGSJ

Chevalier Fred Trueman APM KGSJ





Malta's Medical History—Part of its National Heritage

Thanks to the presence in Malta for three-and-a-half centuries of the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, also known as The Knight Hospitallers, the country has a long and experienced medical history and in World War 1 was regarded as “the nurse of the Mediterranean” for its medical treatment to wounded and injured British and Australian military personnel. The Knights first came to Malta



in the early years of the 15th century after being expelled by the Turkish Moors from Rhodes. The source of their foundation was a Nobility Order dedicated to treating the injured and wounded during the Crusades in the Holy Land and later treating Christian pilgrims. By 1530 they had arrived and begun to settle in Malta which was “given” to them by the Sicilian King Charles 1 of Spain and his mother in exchange for a rent of a Maltese Falcon annually!

One of their tasks was to construct an infirmary hospital in Valletta after this city was constructed and inaugurated in 1568 following the great victory in 1565, after the Great Siege imposed by the Turkish Moors. Right down to World War 11 this hospital continued to function but later was sadly abandoned until the 1970s when the Maltese Government renovated and converted the building into what is now known as The Mediterranean Conference Centre.

The Knights remained in Malta until 1798 when they were expelled by Napoleon Bonaparte and his French military who had taken over the island and whose one of the first actions was to expel the Knights because of their nobility heritage, a major blot in French Republican eyes.

By 1803 the British under Lord Horatio Nelson had dispelled the French. At British behest an old and decrepit villa built by the Knights at Bighi was converted into a military hospital.

Bighi lies on the inner northern part of the Grand Harbour rim near Kalkara and the Three Cities of Cospicua, Senglea and Vittoriosa. It was chosen so that naval ves-

sels could immediately deliver their wounded and injured directly into the hospital. Its conversion to a hospital took place around 1827.

However, was there another reason? Many people in Malta itself do not know that at the tip of Bighi, at water level, there are structured thermal baths, and these were highly utilised by the British for patients with joint and muscle pains and other related illnesses and thus requiring thermal cures. The coastal terrain in the area was ideal for the structuring of such baths.

The baths used to be filled with cold or warm sea water as required and produced by a pumping room with water being directly drawn from the sea. Seawater contains magnesium, zinc, iron and potassium and helps cure inflamed skin and protects it. With the introduction of more sophisticated treatment, the baths were abandoned and the years of lying directly on the seashore began to take their toll. The structures began to crumble and were in danger of being lost



completely. However, the heritage foundation FWA has now stepped and has applied great pressure for these to be renovated and preserved as they are part of the Grand Harbour panorama and are depicted in many paintings of the area.

This is once more proof that Malta and Gozo are resplendent in historical heritage and although being among the smallest countries in the world their contribution to humanity has been great and by far outreaching their geographical dimensions. The Bighi Hospital has now been converted into the ESPLORA science and technology centre to maintain the utility of its importance to the history of Valletta's Grand Harbour.

With acknowledgement to the “Maltese newsletter”.



The world is opening up for Aussie travellers.

Good news at last for those of us who are seeking to travel again, whether it be domestically or internationally.

The last 19 months have been a long arduous slog for everyone in travel, tourism & hospitality, and for fellow travellers wanting to reconnect with family, and for others who simply want to see the world before they lose the passion & energy to travel.



Re-opening in New South Wales & soon to be Victoria has given rise to opening of international borders for Aussies to travel overseas once again.

This has been assisted by the high vaccination rates recorded in both these states, reaching the 80% mark for double vaccinated residents.

Australia should be at the 80% vaccinated mark by mid-November.

South Australia is still lagging behind. We need to increase our vaccination level in order to have more freedom to travel interstate and internationally; hopefully in early 2022 (fingers crossed).

So, it is with great anticipation that we welcome news that the Prime Minister has set the date for international travel on 17 November – a month earlier than anticipated.

Qantas will fly from Sydney to the UK & USA, with other countries designated to commence in December, for example Fiji, Japan, Hawaii & Canada.

From a “travel perspective” this is the most welcome news we have seen since borders closed on March 20th, 2020.

It is not clear yet where travellers can depart from; although Sydney, Melbourne & Darwin have been given the nod.

Return quarantine and testing conditions are also yet to be decided, but it is certain that you will be required to be fully vaccinated, and to have PCR testing within 72 hours of flying in both directions, followed by some form of shortened home quarantine & testing regime, for at least the first few months.

This will evolve in early 2022 with expansion to other capital cities in Australia as interstate borders also open up permanently and we commence the establishment of bilateral bubbles beyond NZ, allowing Australians to travel to & from without quarantine requirements at either end of the journey, and where citizens of the countries we establish bubbles with, can do the same.

I think the main thing we need to understand is that this re-opening will be limited at first.

We need to accept a ‘slow & cautious approach’ to re-opening, whilst protocols are refined and volumes slowly increase.

Whilst we are not out of the pandemic yet, it is coming.

We are all counting the days until the first plane-load of travellers sets out across the Pacific bound for the USA, and across the Indian Ocean to UK & Europe; paving the way for a resumption in overseas travel.

So, dust the cobwebs from your passports & get ready for lift off – let’s travel like an explorer as the world opens up for us!



The Second World War Siege of Malta

The **Siege of Malta** in World War II was a military campaign in the Mediterranean Theatre. From June 1940 to November 1942, the fight for the control of the strategically important island of the British Crown Colony of Malta pitted the air forces and navies of Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany against the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Royal Navy.



The opening of a new front in North Africa in June 1940 increased Malta's already considerable value. British air and sea forces based on the island could attack Axis ships transporting vital supplies and reinforcements from Europe; Churchill called



the island an "unsinkable aircraft carrier". General Erwin Rommel, in de facto field command of Axis forces in North Africa, recognised its

importance quickly. In May 1941, he warned that "Without Malta the Axis will end by losing control of North Africa".

The Axis resolved to bomb or starve Malta into submission, by attacking its ports, towns, cities, and Allied shipping supplying the island. Malta was one of the most intensively bombed areas during the war. The *Luftwaffe* (German Air Force) and the *Regia Aeronautica* (Italian Royal Air Force) flew a total of 3,000 bombing raids, dropping 6,700 tons of bombs on the Grand Harbour area alone, over a period of two years in an effort to destroy RAF defences and the ports. Success would have made possible a combined German–Italian amphibious landing (Operation Herkules) supported by German airborne forces (*Fallschirmjäger*), but this



did not happen. In the event, Allied convoys were able to supply and reinforce Malta, while the RAF defended its airspace, though at great cost in materiel and lives. In November 1942 the Axis lost the Second Battle of El Alamein, and the Allies landed forces in Vichy French Morocco and Algeria under Operation Torch. The Axis diverted their forces to the Battle of Tunisia, and attacks on Malta were rapidly reduced. The siege effectively ended in November 1942.

In December 1942, air and sea forces operating from Malta went over to the offensive. By May 1943, they had sunk 230 Axis ships in 164 days, the highest Allied sinking rate of the war. The Allied victory in Malta played a major role in the eventual Allied success in North Africa.

Gathered from various sources



Mary Potter Care

A love of family and fishing were united, thanks to you

When Manuel's doctor uttered the words 'palliative care' and then suggested he go to Mary Potter Hospice for the next stage of his care, Manuel and his family didn't want to go.

Out of curiosity, Manuel's daughter Maria came to the Hospice to check it out.

She remembered that only 18 months before, she had been with her dad at Calvary for a procedure and they had walked past the Hospice. "At least you're not in there, Dad", she had said to him. Now she was back here again to look at it for her father.



She told us, "It was ironic really. But when I spoke to people at Mary Potter, I felt much better. Dad walked through those Hospice doors a couple of days later."

The day after that, the family took Manuel out for breakfast. There were lots of outings – visits to the boat ramp he loved - visits to restaurants and to his extended family's homes. Manuel's room was always full of his children and grandchildren, just as he wanted.

Maria soon saw that the Hospice was about living, not dying. She remembers how they used the Family Kitchen all the time, saying: "We got fat in that kitchen!"

Thanks to your support, we were able to plan a special surprise for him.

Being a keen fisherman, we presented Manuel with a large-framed print of himself with a huge snapper he had caught. He was quite over-

whelmed - and couldn't stop smiling, looking at his photo.

Then we brought him outside his room, into the Hospice Garden, with all of his family in tow. On the table were two huge seafood platters with crabs, prawns, salad, bread rolls, and drinks for everyone. The family couldn't believe what you did for them. The first thing Manuel did was to pick up a crab and start eating immediately.



After the meal, Manuel's son said that he hadn't ever seen his dad eat so much! Everyone was so moved by what you made possible.

Maria told us: "In our darkest hours, the team at Mary Potter Hospice embraced our family - and during those moments, we may have even forgotten why we were there in the first place. Tears of joy, moments of elation and pure happiness to be all together in an environment which made us all, especially Dad, feel nurtured, loved and protected."

"The team at Mary Potter go above and beyond. They changed our whole perspective on palliative care. They truly are angels in their own right."

[Thank you for showing Manuel and his family that the Hospice is about living, not dying. And thank you for sharing our belief that caring for people at the end of their life is an honour and a privilege.](#)



Mary Potter Care

I have hundreds of stories, but I like this one because it highlights how important it is for patients who are still well enough - to live their life to the full. That's what we try to help them do. Not every patient comes to us with time to get to the heart of what they like to do and what makes them who they are. But when they do – we love nothing more than to create a special moment or two for them.

For patients who are much closer to death there is still so much we can do, it's just different. We tend to focus on comfort and their family.

Lorna Riddle

Executive Director
The Mary Potter Foundation Inc



About Mary Potter and their Care

With regards to how to get admitted Mary Potter

The current process is as follows:

To be admitted to Mary Potter, the patient must have private health insurance which covers them for palliative care.

The patient must have a terminal illness.

To get admittance, the patient's doctor must phone the Hospice on 08 8239 9144 to speak with a Consultant. They will have a clinical discussion and a decision will be made according to the patient's pain level and symptoms. Family can call the Hospice direct, however, until the Consultant has had a clinical discussion with their loved one's doctor, no action will be taken.

Three years ago Calvary introduced a Palliative Home Care Service which is a pre-cursor to coming to Mary Potter. This service cares for patients long before they need to come to Mary Potter, ensuring they get good quality care on their palliative journey. All patients in the care of the Home Care Service receive immediate access to Mary Potter should they not wish to die at home, or if their condition becomes untenable to stay home. Carers and family members have access to a 24hr hotline to the Mary Potter staff to discuss their concerns. This is the most direct route to getting into Mary Potter. To find out more about the Home Care Service call 08 8239 9587.

Editors Note: we hope we never need Mary Potter but it is resurging to know that it is there and we know what is available.

Thanks to Lorna Riddle for this information