



2024

YEAR BOOK

Order of St John

Commandery of Western Australia





Vale Tinesh Tamilkodi

St John WA pays tribute following the loss of Clinical Support Paramedic Tinesh Tamilkodi, tragically killed in the line of duty during the year. Tinesh was a treasured member of the St John WA team whose boundless compassion and unwavering dedication touched the lives of countless individuals. His selfless commitment to helping everyone serves as an enduring inspiration to us all.

AP21344

Forever in our hearts.

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Cover Picture: Errol Stone MStJ at the 2024 Investiture ceremony

Acknowledgement of Country

St John Western Australia (WA) acknowledges the First Nations peoples of the many Traditional lands and language groups across Western Australia as the Traditional Custodians of the Country. We pay our respects to their Ancestors and Elders, past and present.

St John WA is committed to honouring the unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, sea and waterways, and the rich continuing contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to our society.



Reconciliation milestone

During the year, St John WA commenced the second phase of its reconciliation journey by embarking on an Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which focuses on strengthening relationships with and empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and piloting strategies for further reconciliation commitments.



Recognition of St John

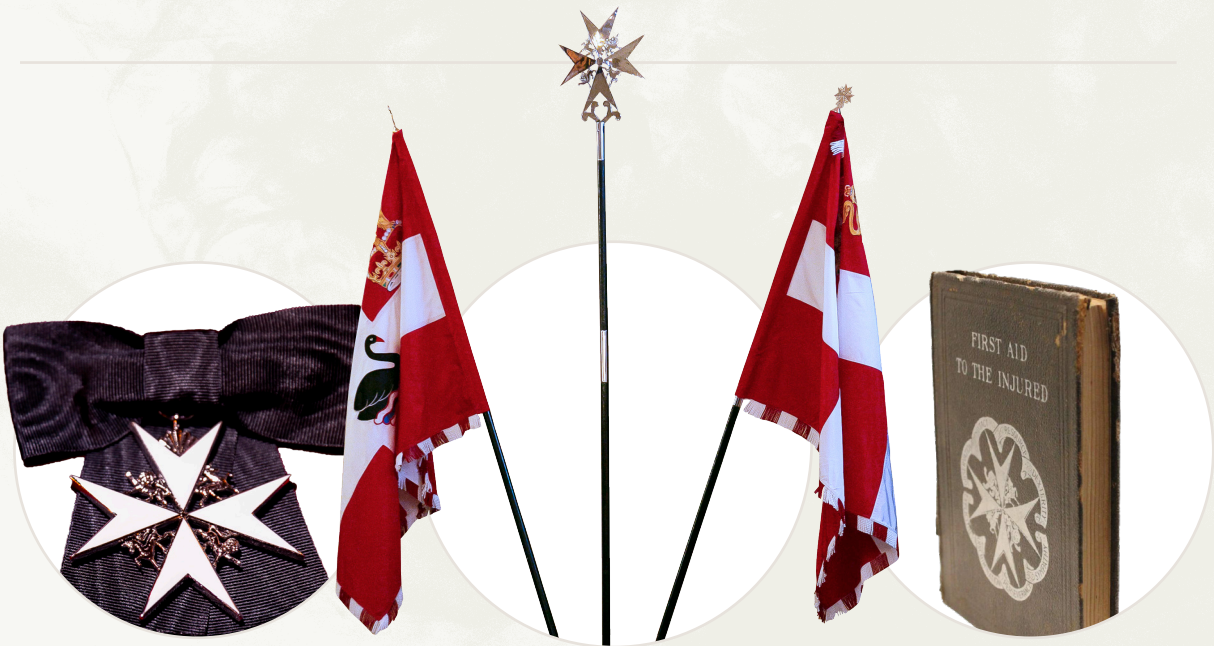
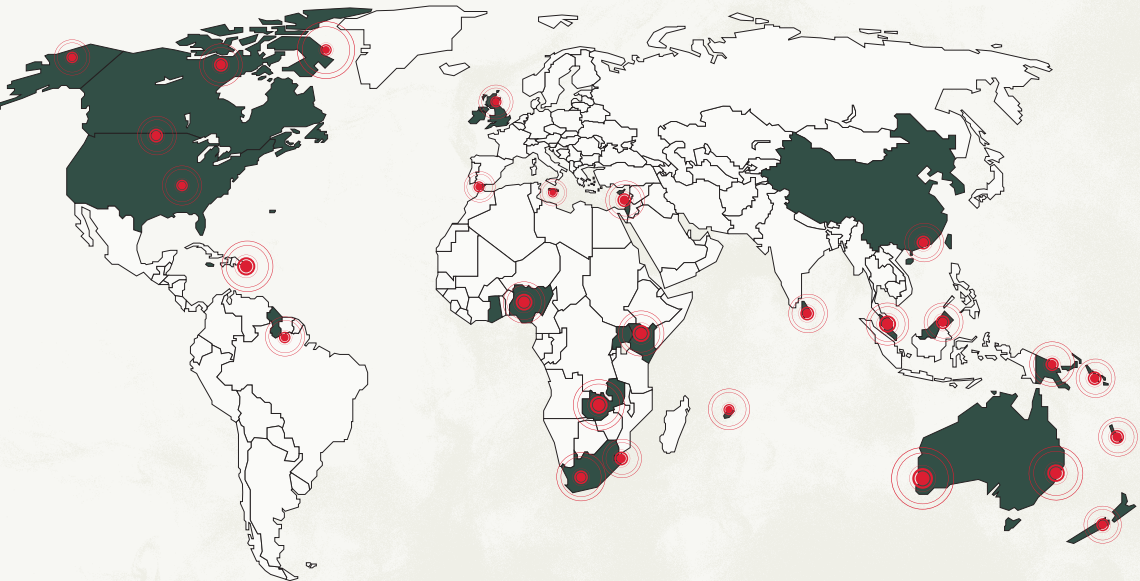
The Order of St John Commandery in WA is part of an international and modernising community across 44 Establishments united in charitable purpose. The vision of the international organisation, the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, is to enhance the reach and effectiveness of St John globally through focus on the mottoes: Pro Fide 'For the Faith' and Pro Utilitate Hominum 'For the Service of Humanity'.

The Western Australian Commandery is part of 10 locations in the Asia Pacific region, and shares an additional bond as one of five distinguished

Commanderies within the global order, standing alongside the Isle of Man, the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Bailiwick of Jersey, and the Commandery of Ards in Northern Ireland.

Commandery Members are part of a unique body whose Members – with their collective experience, knowledge and understanding of the pillars and fabric of St John – help guide the organisation forward. Members are recognised for reflecting in their life the values for which the Order stands. The Order's operations are driven by St John International which is the supporting body for all St John Establishments.

Global connection of the Order



Lord Prior’s reflection

As we celebrate 141 years of St John Ambulance in Australia, we reflect on the enduring legacy and the evolution of our mission since that pivotal day on June 24, 1883. On that date, a public meeting at the Athenaeum Theatre in Melbourne set the foundation for St John Ambulance in Australia. From teaching first aid to railway workers, our commitment to community service has grown, positioning us as ‘First in First Aid’ in Australia. Today, St John Ambulance Australia has expanded to meet the diverse needs of our communities, embracing innovation while staying true to our mission of service and care.

Our international network, spanning 44 Establishments, or countries, and hundreds of thousands of volunteers and staff, touching the lives of millions of people each year is a testament to the global impact of St John. The Order of St John’s global mission (under-girded by our eight core Values) is clear: we are an international family of charities whose mission is to lead globally in First Aid and medical responses to community healthcare

needs. In Western Australia, the Commandery stands as a distinguished member of this global family, actively and effectively contributing to the work of the Priory in Australia and the international tapestry of St John.

I know the hearts of the entire international St John family broke for you with the loss in the line of duty of Clinical Support Paramedic Tinesh Tamilkodi.



The strength of community on display was an inspiration to us all.

This year also marks the first full year under the reign of King Charles III. I had the great privilege to attend and be a participant in the King’s Procession at the Coronation and have reflected often on his Majesty’s words, in paraphrasing the Gospel, “I come not to be served but to serve”; words which resonate deeply with our Order’s values and our raison d’etre. The Coronation service, rich in themes of servant leadership and inclusiveness, inspires us all to lead with compassion, devotion and integrity. The involvement of diverse faith leaders and young people in the ceremony underscored the importance of unity, diversity and service in our leadership.

We also take this opportunity to celebrate Chancellor Cameron Oxley’s promotion to Bailiff Grand Cross, sanctioned by His Majesty King Charles III on January 31, 2024. Cameron’s exemplary service and leadership as Chancellor of the Australian Priory and his significant contribution to the Order at a global level have significantly contributed to the growth and strategic direction of St John in Australia and across the world. His inclusive approach and commitment during challenging times, such as the global COVID-19 pandemic and various natural disasters, have been instrumental in advancing our mission. Cameron’s dedication to enhancing our services and fostering international connections is a beacon of excellence within our Order.

St John WA has again this year demonstrated remarkable resilience and growth, embodying the spirit of our mottoes: Pro Fide ‘For the Faith’ and Pro Utilitate Hominum ‘For the Service of Humanity’.

In celebrating these milestones, we honour the past, embrace the present, and look forward to a future where St John continues to thrive and serve humanity with unwavering dedication.

I conclude by offering my sincere thanks to all Members of the Order and the whole St John WA team for the exceptional work being done in the name of the Order and in support of the community. I extend my thanks to your loved ones who nurture and support you as you give yourself to the service of others.



Professor Mark Compton AM GCStJ,
Lord Prior

Governor’s reflection

One of the most rewarding aspects of being the Governor of Western Australia is having the opportunity to honour, encourage and celebrate with community members who continually provide service to others. My role as Knight Commander of the Order of St John is a big part of this.

I have always valued the work done by the caring St John WA team members, and since being invested as Knight Commander I have been further impressed with the WA team members. I greatly appreciate the important role the Order has in the modern age, cultivating the enduring links between Western Australia and locations around the world where the army of dedicated, passionate people do good in their local communities every day.

During the year I was pleased to welcome the St John WA Youth and Community Engagement team back to Government House to attend several Open Days. The team do incredible work delivering age-appropriate awareness and education to Western Australians, particularly children in school. The contribution this work makes to our State (having the highest rate of bystander CPR in Australia) is not lost on me: St John and the education and contribution it brings is immersed into the Western Australian way of life.

Standing with you to honour the life of Clinical Support Paramedic Tinesh Tamilkodi who tragically died in the course of attending a Priority 1 call-out was important. The St John WA team stood united for his family, friends and colleagues. The tributes from those closest were a testament to a remarkable clinician and servant of the WA community. Coming so close on the back of losing Paramedic Fiona Lavelle in early 2023, I know the loss has been felt across the St John WA community and beyond. The way St John WA is paying respect to their

memories through memorial pins, scholarships and a reflection garden are fitting.

At the St John WA Investiture in April, the stories of new and promoted Order Members and in some cases over a lifetime of volunteering were remarkable to witness. The dedication of Eleanor Hill over 35 years to her beloved Laverton and the many “hats” she has worn over the years truly earned her the title of Commander, and it was a great privilege that dedication was recognised in front of her peers.

As Governor I also have the privilege of formally investing outstanding Australians for the Australian Honours and Awards system, which includes the Ambulance Service Medal. Between the Kings Birthday 2023 and the Australia Day 2024 Honours lists, 14 deserving Volunteer Ambulance Officers and Paramedics were recognised for their distinguished service.

The year 2024 marked my first full year as Knight Commander, having accepted the invitation to be invested to the role in early 2023. I had the great honour to represent Western Australia when the Sovereign Head of the Order, His Majesty King Charles III was crowned at his Coronation in Westminster Abbey on May 6 2023. This enabled me to meet some of the incredible people leading St John across the world, including Lord Prior Mark Compton AM GCStJ. More recently I have spent time with the St John WA Group Board



and commend them on their work bringing a contemporary approach to the organisation’s governance and defining the important role the Order plays in cementing St John WA as a uniquely purposeful social enterprise in service to the people of WA.

Rounding out the year, I was thrilled to see St John WA represented at Optus Stadium for the Round 15 Lights and Sirens Thank Our First Responders AFL game, which happened just hours after the annual St John Day Church Service. I could not think of a better way to spend a winter Sunday than reflecting on the importance of service to humanity with the Order, then witnessing how that compassion and dedication has led to the vibrant, enthusiastic, and contemporary organisation on display at the Fremantle Dockers home game. What a way to close the 2023-24 year.

Congratulations to all Order members, whether you have just joined this year or have been part of the organisation for many years. The contribution you have made, and continue to make, is building the wellbeing and health of Western Australians, and affirming St John WA as a modern, progressive organisation.



His Excellency the Honourable
Chris Dawson AC APM KStJ,
Knight Commander of the Order of St John

Message from the Commandery Lieutenant

Kaya, ngalak kaadatj ngalang moort wirin - We acknowledge our families' spirit. And also acknowledge traditional owners across the vast WA expanse.

St John WA offered the people of WA 17 services in the last year, and five of them provided direct services for and with our First Nations people of WA. We are all determined to increase this connection and look forward to working through our Reconciliation Action Plan to achieve more in this space. Well done to many team members for this drive, including Amanda Healy at Board level, Kevin Brown as Group CEO, First Nations Relations Specialist Jeremy Maitland-Smith and the 2024 RAP Working Group.

I also recognise the connection, through and with 44 St John Establishments world-wide. Since 2021, St John International has been elevating the organisation's imprint across the world. It is setting new standards in governance, and increasing awareness of the impact the organisation has across the world. St John, globally, is 147 years old this year, compared to Australia's St John age of 141 years and WA's 133 years.

Reflecting on the past two years, the linkage with the global St John family is becoming stronger. In WA, we have experienced St John International increased attention connecting us around the world through three main avenues:

- regionalisation – with the drive through three global clusters, with WA being part of Australia, which is part of the Asia Pacific area,
- firming the role of the International Office – being a supporter of the Establishments, including setting standards and forming business intelligence to share inside and outside of the Establishments, and

- focusing on funding and resourcing – with an impressive and gifted £2M (AUD \$3.9M) to set up a fundraising arm out of London unfolding presently.

In unison with the international focus on governance growth, St John WA adopted its new Constitution during the year which expanded voting rights to all St John WA Members, in keeping with modern-day governance and charitable laws. Engagement with Members has been a focal point of the Board. This year, we conducted four engagement sessions, both face-to-face and online, ensuring that all members, regardless of their location, could participate. One session had over 50 online participants – thank you for such engagement. These sessions have been invaluable in gathering feedback and fostering a sense of community and shared purpose – with questions such as the organisations' commitment to the environment. A highlight for all members of the Board was the three-day immersion in the Geraldton region, where the Board had the privilege of connecting with members from Western Australia's Mid West and Gascoyne regions. The insights gained from these interactions influenced decision-making at the Board level, ensuring that decisions have been made with full understanding of team members' impact. A genuine thank you for your time and trust during these visits.



The Board has worked hard to increase its transparency and it has been rewarding to hear of the Members who have read the Board's Communiques, and kept up-to-date through other channels. I receive great feedback through the Board Chair email address, and face-to-face engagement, often with Members voicing support for this new transparent approach. Around the Board table we always raise Member views, and we wish to thank those who provided feedback and encourage this to continue. We also encourage members to visit St John International's new forward-facing website, and that of other St John Establishments like Malaysia, Hato Hone New Zealand, Canada and England. All over the world,

St John team members are helping others. Reading about other areas helps us to broaden our thinking about how better to help, plus we learn that many Establishments have similar learnings to WA. An example of this is in Wales, where the volunteers are working to improve their rewards and recognition programs, just like feedback received here in WA which has underpinned creation of the Volunteer Advocacy Team initiative.

I had the pleasure this year of meeting St John Eye Hospital Chief Executive Officer Ahmad Ma'ali and heard first-hand how his team is helping the people of Jerusalem, under extreme conditions. Likewise,

I encourage Order Member engagement with their website and perhaps considering supporting their excellent work directly. I recognise the ongoing connection and efforts of the St John Fellowship here in Western Australia for support provided to both the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem, and also to the St John WA Museum which you will read in this document is undergoing a major refresh which will make the remarkable history of the organisation accessible and engaging.

Our annual Investiture ceremony in April was a remarkable event, where we welcomed 34 new Members, promoted six to Officers of the Order and recognised 16 Commandery Commendations. This ceremony is more than a tradition: it is a celebration of the dedication and service of our members who contribute tirelessly to our mission. As well as being celebrated for ever, being only one of two Order memberships in Australia, the new Members become Members of the Company, meaning they have voting rights of St John WA. In total we have nearly 680 Voting Members in WA at the moment, out of slightly more than 2400 members in Australia.

Whilst everyone is working hard at St John WA, a focus of the Board has been on its own governance standards. This year, we welcomed new Non-Executive Directors Matt Mueller GAICD and Monish Paul MAICD as casual vacancies to the Board, adding diversity of thought and skills aligned to the Board's composition matrix, and to oversee the drive to the next Strategic Direction. We also celebrate the long-term leadership of Mike Gurry, in particular his expertise in leading a purposeful positioning, and Tony Ahern ASM KStJ, in offering his global St John knowledge and financial oversight. Speaking of which, I'd like to highlight the

contribution of Tony, along with Ian Kay-Eddie AM ASM KStJ, Edith Khangure OAM DStJ and Dr Harry Oxer AM ASM KStJ who released their book covering 100 years of ambulance history in WA, *Order from Chaos*. I used this book when we visited Geraldton this year, and the local team took great joy in hearing Geraldton was the first regional sub centre, and the first publicly accessible Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was in Kalbarri. The book also features a photo of the original 1930 Chevrolet ambulance which Geraldton somehow got its hands on at a time when Perth ambulance services were still operated by horse-drawn cart. Well done to the authors on this huge collection of stories.

The annual St John WA "of the Year" Awards recognition included Northam being named Sub Centre of the Year, Wyalkatchem/Koorda's Jay Hammond as Country Volunteer of the Year and husband and wife team Alex and Nikki Gibson (both MStJ) as Metro Volunteers of the Year. Of course one of St John WA's own – Peter Geraghty MStJ – was named Western Australia's Volunteer of the Year. This is so brilliant, and is a celebration of all St John WA volunteers and the effort they put into their local communities. Whilst celebrating, it is also a fitting time to take a moment of reflection for team members and Order Members who have passed this year. Our hearts are with family and friends as we reflect.

St John WA is investing through leadership, built form, technology, safety and of course its people. We are focussed on building for the future, ensuring St John WA is able to best service in every way, the people of WA. All earnings are reinvested back to help us better serve and connect – this is why so many people want to work and volunteer for such a

purposeful organisation be it in WA, across Australia, or through one of the 44 Establishments world-wide. In the past year alone we've recruited more than 1000 people, and are growing our volunteer base by a good 178 people per month. We are always open to newcomers and would love to connect all people of all backgrounds. Board is enthused by diversity and inclusion, so please don't hesitate to encourage all to come forward.

On behalf of the Board and as your Commandery Lieutenant, we stand alongside each other with the greatest respect for time gone by, for current dedication and for the efforts for the future. Together, we are building a future that honours St John's rich history and embraces the opportunities of tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the people of this state, through St John WA. Please don't ever hesitate to reach and connect.

Warm regards and yaankga -

Thank you.



Sally Carbon OAM, OLY, CStJ, FAICD,
Commandery Lieutenant



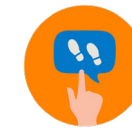
Lead with *Heart*



Think *Team*



Make it *Better*



Walk the *Talk*



Representatives at the St John Grand Council meeting.
Credit: Blake Armstrong, Armstrong Photography NZ

July

Grand Council

The annual St John Grand Council meeting was held in Queenstown in New Zealand and was attended by Lieutenant Commander Sally Carbon. Highlights included a presentation from Order Secretary General Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque who spoke on governance, performance and leadership.



October

Federal Council

St John WA hosted the Federal Council in October which provided another shared learning opportunity to bring together St John teams from across Australia. Federal Council is a meeting of St John State and Territory Chairs, the Chancellor and National CEO Brendan Maher, and meet three times each year.

Chapter meeting and AGM

The 2023 Annual Chapter Meeting and Annual General Meeting was held both in person and online allowing Members from across the State to tune in.

At the meeting, a special resolution to adopt a new contemporary and modern Constitution to lead St John WA into its 10th strategic phase was unanimously resolved. The Constitution was pre-approved by the Australian Prior, the Priory Chapter

and the International Grand Council of the Order of St John prior to the AGM. Following the AGM, and over a series of months, the Constitution was formalised and received approval for adoption from:

- Professor Mark Compton AM GCStJ as Lord Prior of The Most Venerable Order of St John;
- the Priory Chapter; and
- the Grand Council.

Key changes influenced to more clearly align with the Corporations, Charities, and Australian Charities and Not for Profit (ACNC) Act clauses included:

1. be written in a modernised format,
2. reflect the Establishment of the St John (International) Statutes and regulations,
3. define objects and purpose that assist the future growth of the company,
4. keep the same four rights and four voting rights as Members held in the 2012 Constitution,
5. modernise the Director appointment processes, tenures and powers,
6. make the foundation dues obsolete for Members, and
7. extend voting rights to all Members of the WA Commandery (Grades I to V inclusive).

The event also included a member engagement session with attendees receiving an update and overview including three important organisation-wide initiatives: The announcement of the Board's 2030 Strategic Direction; the Group CEO's Strategic Plan to drive towards that Direction; and four new organisation-wide values, enabling team members to uniquely work out their own diverse behaviours aligned to these values.

New Values

St John WA's Board affirmed the next Strategic Direction at the tail end of last financial year. This Direction enabled the Group CEO to form the Strategic Plan, which is a Plan of how to get to this position, by 2030. The Direction is four-point and covers, in short:

- **Reaching 'everyone' in WA:** Ensuring our services are inclusive and accessible to all, while embracing modern diversity and inclusion within our organisation.
- **Connection inside and outside the organisation:** Strengthening our internal and external connections, particularly through technology, to better serve our communities.
- **Adding wellbeing to the concept of health as a line of services:** Evolving our services to align with future health expectations, being proactive in building community health resilience.
- **Being conscious of 'for-the-future' as much as 'for-today':** Ensuring our actions today support a sustainable future, covering corporate, social, people, and environmental aspects.

The organisation's benevolent and charitable purpose statement remains as 'to serve humanity, and build resilient communities, through the relief of sickness, distress, suffering and danger'.



December

Christmas luncheon

The annual Commandery and Friends of St John Christmas Lunch provided an opportunity for a formal launch of St John WA history book *Order from Chaos*, penned by Members Tony Ahern ASM KStJ, Ian Kay-Eddie AM ASM KStJ, Edith Khangure OAM DStJ and Dr Harry Oxer AM ASM KStJ. The book recounts how the historical foundations, formation and development of St John shaped and guided St John WA over more than five decades to the modernising and contemporary organisation it is in 2024.

All Commandery members were offered a copy of the book free of charge, and copies have also been provided to the St John Priory and international offices.



March

Jeffrey Williams in London

Board Director and Director of Ceremonies Jeffrey Williams KStJ attended two events at the Priory Church in Clerkenwell while visiting the UK for the Oxford Healthcare Leadership Programme. He spent time with Secretary General Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque and Head of Chancery Steve Wilson, providing an update on work being done to increase engagement with Order Members, including face-to-face and online engagement opportunities, monthly newsletters, elevated events and the Yearbook. Along with Andrea Williams CStJ they also visited St John Gate and appreciated a tour with Museum Collections Officer Rachel Job.



April

Investiture and engagement session

The Government House Investiture event in April celebrated the exceptional dedication of 57 St John WA team members. In addition, 93 Members joined face-to-face or tuned in online for an Order engagement session to hear an organisational update from Chair Sally Carbon and Group CEO Kevin Brown.

May

Peter Geraghty MStJ named WA Volunteer of the Year

Mukinbudin local legend Peter Geraghty MStJ was named WA Volunteer of the Year after more

than 43 years of extraordinary service to the Wheatbelt community.

Peter won the top honour at the 2024 Awards, selected from 240 nominees from across the State.

The truly humble hero has devoted most of his life to helping others since joining the Kununoppin Sub Centre as a Volunteer Ambulance Officer in 1980.

He has been the Sub Centre's secretary and treasurer since 1985, providing strong and steady leadership for more than four decades. In recognition of Peter's impact on the region, all four local governments made him an Honorary Freeman of their shires in 2016, the highest honour a council can bestow.

In an incredible sign of his dedication to the community, Peter has been the Sub Centre's sole call-taker and ambulance dispatcher since 1985, on call 24/7.

With the Sub Centre averaging 290 calls a year spread between emergencies and patient transfers from Merredin, there are few days when Peter's phone doesn't ring.

And after four decades, he hasn't missed a call yet.



Retirement of Dr Harry Oxer AM ASM KStJ

An era came to a close during May when Dr Harry Oxer AM ASM KStJ retired from his longstanding role as Director of Ceremonies, Honorary Librarian and Museum Curator for the Commandery, ending an extraordinary 48-year journey of dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment.

Dr Oxer joined SJWA in 1976 as the first Executive Medical Director. Over his 26-year tenure in this role, he laid the foundation for modern first aid and paramedic training, developing comprehensive courses and introducing pivotal advancements such as portable defibrillators on all frontline ambulances—a first in Australia.

His visionary leadership has significantly improved ambulance services across Western Australia.



In 2003, Dr Oxer took on the volunteer role of Deputy Commissioner of the Volunteer First Aid Service (VFAS), now known as Event Health Services (EHS).

His dedication to volunteer support was unparalleled, ensuring proper resourcing, training, and motivation through regular visits and motivational talks. Upon retiring from his paid role, Dr Oxer continued to serve in voluntary positions.

His contributions to historical research and museum curation have been invaluable. He has authored three books and co-authored another, further enriching the historical knowledge of St John.





June

Paul Beech OSTJ receives OAM

In the King's Birthday Honours, Harvey volunteer Paul Beech OSTJ received an Order of Australia Medal (OAM), and Brian Gallop OSTJ and Phil Stanaitis MStJ were each awarded an Ambulance Service Medal (ASM).



Geraldton Member engagement

The annual regional Commandery engagement session was held in Geraldton during June. Ten Members attended in person and another 30 joined online with an enlivening discussion highlighting progress made in Diversity and Inclusion, Culture and progress made towards the next 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan.



St John's Day Church Service

St John's Day celebrates St John the Baptist, the patron saint of St John Ambulance which is marked with an annual service at St George's Cathedral in Perth

Support from St John WA has previously gone towards the upkeep and maintenance of St George's Cathedral. This year, the support provided was specifically

earmarked as a contribution towards the set up and establishment of Holy Grounds, a social inclusion space and café focusing on bringing connections and fostering community and friendships. Among the attendees were Commandery Lieutenant Sally Carbon, along with Governor and Knight Commander, His Excellency Chris Dawson and Director of Ceremonies Jeffrey Williams all of whom took the opportunity to participate in a moment of reflection.



July

Grand Council

Chair Sally Carbon attended the annual St John Grand Council in Wales to start the new financial year.

The 10-day event provides opportunity to learn and engage with some of the 11 Priories from around the world including those in the Asia Pacific region, to which St John Australia and St John WA belong. The St John International Strategic Plan was a key discussion point, addressing regionalisation, St John International as a support agency, and funding and resourcing for the Plan.

The 2025 meeting is expected to be held in Canberra, then the following year in Kenya. There are strong moves ahead including combined business intelligence reporting to demonstrate the overall global impact of St John as a single connected organisation, and an innovative presentation from Wales on its mental health co-response model.

Order of St John Investiture

Investiture is a traditional ceremony admitting or promoting team Members to the Order of St John, a truly international family, for going over and above in their service to the Organisation or community.

This traditional ceremony, steeped in history, welcomes and promotes team members to the esteemed Order of St John, a global royal order established by Queen Victoria in 1888. Presided over by the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, WA Governor and Knight Commander of the Order, the event highlighted the remarkable contributions of these individuals to the St John WA community.

With more than 600 Order members in WA, postulants are nominated by their peers, reviewed by a committee, and receive royal assent from His Majesty King Charles III.

Six team members were admitted or promoted to Officers of the Order, 34 were invested as Members, and 16 received a Commandery Commendation. Membership in the Order of St John, recognised under the Australian Honours System, honours the outstanding service of past, present, and future members.

Promotion to Commander		
Eleanor 'Elly' Hill	ASM CSTJ	Goldfields

Promotion to Officer		
Kathleen Broadbent	OStJ	Gt Southern
Ian Digweed	OStJ	Southwest
Brian Gallop	OStJ	Goldfields
Barbara Groves	OStJ	Gt Southern
Lynda Tyler	OStJ	Gt Southern

Admission as a Officer		
Thomas Drake-Brockman	OStJ	Southwest



Admission as a Member		
Bevan Bailye	MStJ	Goldfields
Shannan Bradley	MStJ	Northwest
Brenda Brown	MStJ	Gt Southern
Celia Campbell	MStJ	Gt Southern
Hayley Clarke	MStJ	Gt Southern
Lance Cooper	MStJ	Gt Southern
Carole Donaldson	MStJ	State Office
Janine Doney	MStJ	Goldfields
Ross Doney	MStJ	Goldfields
Rachael Doney	MStJ	Goldfields
Heidi Fisher	MStJ	Gt Southern
Shane Gray	MStJ	Northwest
Kelly Guest	MStJ	State Office
Jay Hammond	MStJ	Wheatbelt
Caryn Hargrave	MStJ	Wheatbelt
Paul Harrington	MStJ	Wheatbelt
Kelly Haverson	MStJ	Northwest
Abbey Hay	MStJ	Goldfields
Tracie Ironside	MStJ	State Office
Victoria Jones	MStJ	Wheatbelt
Michelle Lamont	MStJ	State Office
Chelsea Lazar	MStJ	EHS
Shirley Marsh	MStJ	Wheatbelt

Admission as a Member		
Belinda Marsh	MStJ	Wheatbelt
Meg Marshall	MStJ	Wheatbelt
Maxi McDonald	MStJ	Northwest
Michael Morgan	MStJ	Goldfields
Keita Morimoto	MStJ	State Office
Shane Munro	MStJ	Wheatbelt
Hamish Nicholls	MStJ	State Office
Erin Nugent	MStJ	EHS
Michaela Stone	MStJ	Wheatbelt
Beth Trezona	MStJ	Wheatbelt
Deb Williams	MStJ	Midwest

Investiture Highlights

Meet some of the team members whose effort was recognised through an admission or promotion to the Order this year.



Eleanor Hill CStJ

Eleanor ‘Elly’ Hill was promoted to Commander at investiture, marking 35 years of serving one of Australia’s most remote communities.

Signing up with SJWA at Christmas in 1989, Elly recalls she was motivated to join as everyone – including the volunteers at the time – had left town.

“Someone asked me if I wouldn’t mind driving the ambulance because they didn’t have anyone else to do it.”

Elly went on to become the backbone of her country sub centre, giving it her all to ensure the service kept going despite many challenges over the past three decades responding to everything from major trauma to delivering puppies.

She described the Investiture ceremony as one of the “best days of my life”.

Ian Digweed OStJ

Ian Digweed began his volunteering journey with St John WA at 11 as a young cadet in 1977.

After witnessing a child hit by a car and using his first aid skills to help, his commitment to St John was solidified. Over 47 years, Ian rose to Emergency Medical Technician, volunteering across the South West and Peel regions.

Now 58, he serves at the St John WA Pinjarra Sub Centre and has also volunteered with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for 37 years. This year, he was made an Officer of the Order of St John. Ian finds great purpose in his role, mentoring new recruits and witnessing the growth of others in their careers.

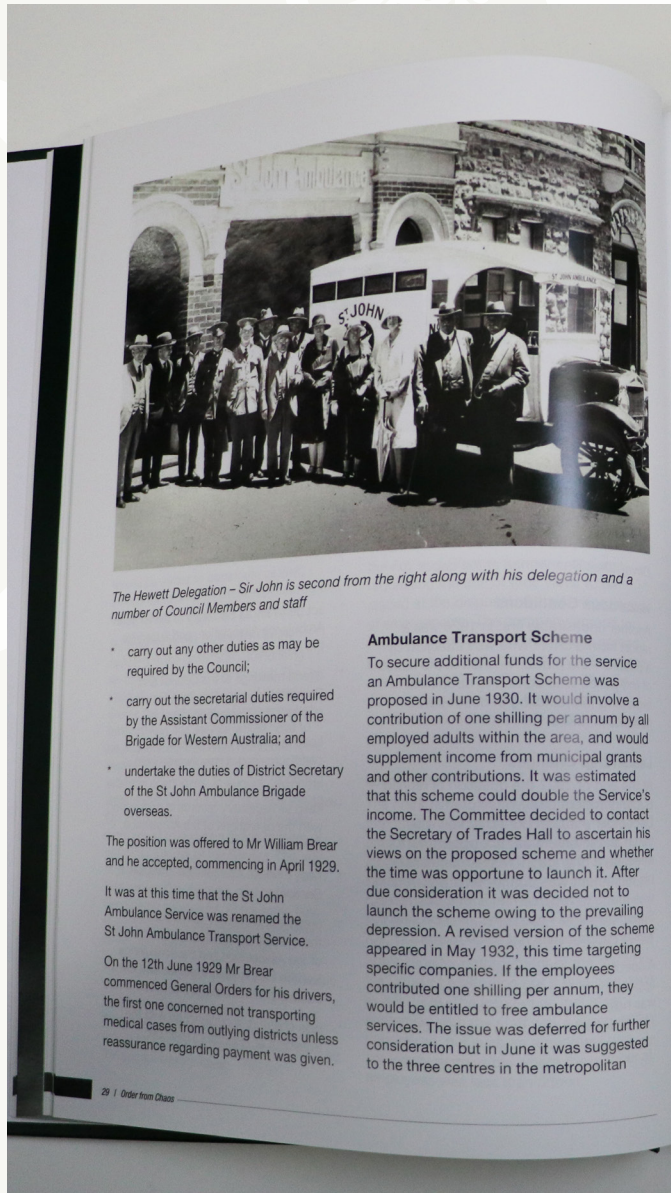


Thomas Drake-Brockman OStJ

Dr Drake-Brockman was admitted as an Officer into the Order of St John for more than a decade of volunteering with St John WA in Event Health Services and at the Harvey Sub Centre, playing a pivotal role in developing leadership structures and supporting building and IT upgrades. Thomas joined in 2014 as an undergraduate science student, and has subsequently continued their volunteering throughout medical school and now as a rural doctor. Known for going above and beyond, Thomas has been involved in helicopter rescues and large-scale emergency responses, witnessing firsthand the positive impact of St John WA on the community. Thomas described Investiture as a “humbling experience” and is looking forward to continuing serving the WA community.

Window into History

During the Board engagement session in Geraldton, stakeholders were reminded Geraldton was home to the first regional ambulance sub centre in Western Australia. The founding of the Geraldton location in 1922 was recounted in the book *Order from Chaos* reference in this Yearbook, and launched in December last year to celebrate 130 years of St John in Western Australia. This is an excerpt from the book, which is available both in hard copy and online for Members of the Commandery of Western Australia. Congratulations to the authors on a remarkable achievement.



Excerpt from "Order from Chaos", page 30

Regional Developments:

While the Perth metropolitan ambulance service had gradually expanded throughout the city from 1922, interest from regional towns was not slow to follow. The first regional sub centre was at Geraldton.

It was established in June 1928 when the work of operating the local ambulance service was taken over by St John. In its first year of service, it received 137 calls and was already planning to acquire a more up-to-date motor ambulance van. Owing to its dedicated fund-raising volunteers, the sub centre was able to increase its assets and had no liabilities by 1930. It did try to operate a system of free transport for subscribers at one shilling per annum, but the scheme met with only a very moderate response.

In a very similar situation to Geraldton, the St John Bunbury Sub Centre was established in June 1929 when it took over control of the local Bunbury Ambulance Transport Service. In its first year of operation, it transported 126 cases and described its financial situation as fairly satisfactory. This was primarily due again to fundraising efforts, as the average donation from patients was less than the actual cost.



Fremantle had a somewhat different experience to Geraldton and Bunbury. In March 1928, the Mayor of Fremantle proposed to take action to abolish the existing local ambulance committee and form a branch of the Association to control the service in the district.

The St John Fremantle Sub Centre was officially established in February 1929. In addition to providing ambulance transport, it immediately began to teach first aid and establish a Brigade. Within 12 months, it had raised enough funds to pay off all the liabilities of the previous committee, have adequate assets in its reserve, hold ten first aid classes, attend to 297 calls for accidents and 93 calls for medical cases, and planned for a new vehicle in the next year.

Other sub centres were Midland Junction and Districts, established in September 1930, Narrogin and Districts, established in December 1930, and York and Districts, established in March 1931. The Association's annual reports at this time included two other centres - the Eastern Goldfields and the WA Government Railways.

These two centres were established in 1901 and 1908 respectively, primarily to teach first aid and operate an ambulance corps (Brigade). Whilst they had affiliated with St John, some re-organisation and changing of their constitutions would now be necessary to allow them to become new formal St John sub centres with a transport service. This would take some years.



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A legacy preserved: St John WA Museum

Words: Unnati Upadhyay

Pictures: Abbey Dunne

Designs for a new St John WA Museum in an entirely revamped and upgraded building on Lapage Street, Belmont are well advanced and hundreds of artefacts are being carefully sorted after being removed from the former site in the Ian Kaye-Eddie wing at 209 Great Eastern Highway.

The Lapage Street building will feature an immersive and interactive exhibition, highlighting the remarkable history and growth of St John WA's preventative, community and emergency services across Western Australia.

Every object on display tells a story, contributing to a larger narrative that showcases the various facets of St John WA and the evolution of care in Western Australia.

A key component of the new museum design is to improve accessibility and prominence, ensuring the 15,000 people who attend the organisation's bustling central hub in Belmont each year to undertake First Aid training can immerse themselves in the storytelling that underscores the organisation's 130 years of service.

The new displays will include a central island display area showcasing a variety of objects, ranging from decades-old first aid kits, traditional medical equipment, evolving paramedic uniforms and miniature ambulances from the past.

The museum will encompass full-height display areas, with display items rotated over time to better showcase the vast collection. Interactive displays will feature a digital touch screen and a telephone to engage visitors, particularly younger audiences.

The museum is being designed by Creative Spaces, a multi-award-winning signage, interpretation, and exhibition design studio led by Director Rikki Clarke, in collaboration with an award-winning architecture firm, Plus Architecture, and the Property team at St John WA.



Rikki Clarke (in blue), Director Creative Spaces and Julianne Mackay, archivist and curator.

"The collection will enjoy great visitation as people walk into their First Aid training rooms. A collection of first aid kits will be displayed opposite the training rooms, telling an important story of how care has evolved over the years." - Director Rikki Clarke

"The new museum design will have an engaging and cohesive feel, with the First Aid shop, the café, and the museum all integrated into one space," Rikki said.

Experienced archivist and museum curator Julianne Mackay is working with St John librarian and archivist Dr Edith Khangure OAM DStJ and Dr Harry Ozer AM ASM KStJ on the curation.

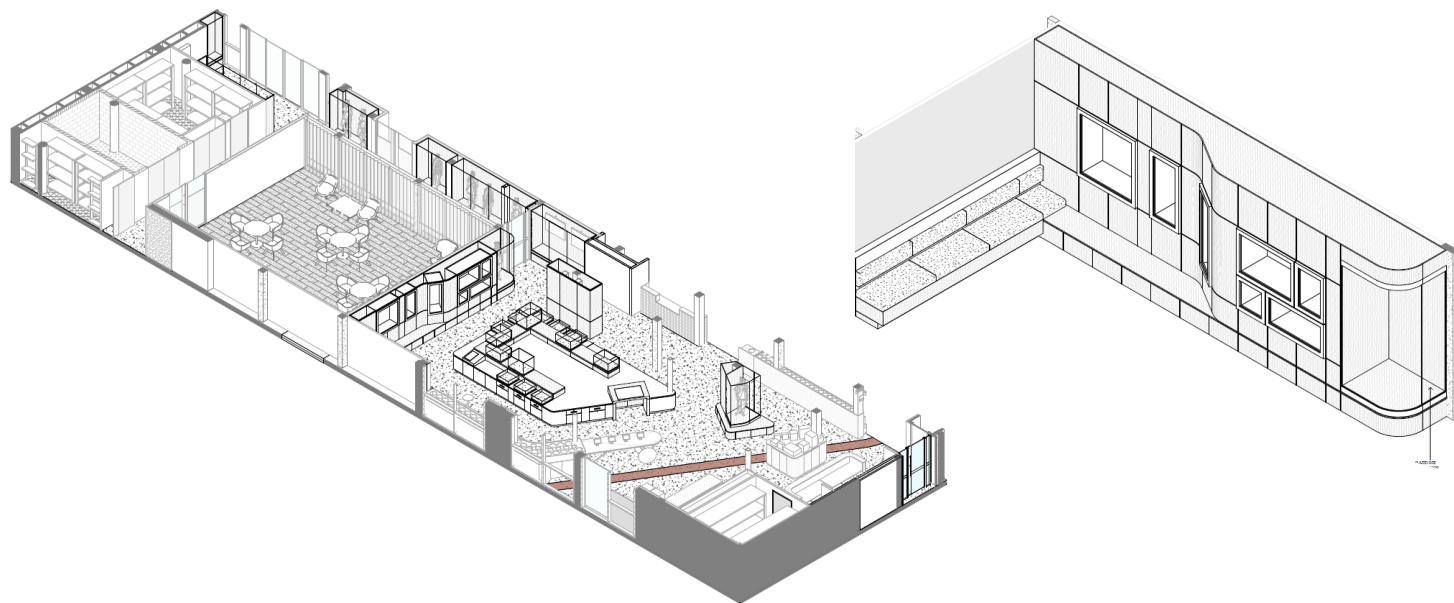
"Dr Khangure is such a font of knowledge and a joy to work with," Julianne said. "Dr Ozer is extremely passionate about the work he does at St John WA."

"It is a real credit to the St John WA team who have preserved different examples of objects over the

years. It is commendable how well-preserved the museum items are."

"The collection not only demonstrates how care has changed over time but also St John WA's commitment to delivering First Aid training to the community here in Western Australia," Rikki said.

The new museum is set to be a beacon of historical preservation and educational engagement. With its state-of-the-art design and thoughtful curation, it aims to honour the legacy of St John WA while encouraging future generations to recognise the importance of community service.



In memoriam

The Order pays respects to those who passed during the year. The commitment and impact over a lifetime of dedication will not be forgotten.

Kevin Young	KStJ	July 2023
Margaret Cockman	OAM CStJ	July 2023
Hazel Goldacre	OStJ	July 2023
James Boyd	MStJ	August 2023
Mary (Pat) Leeson	MStJ	September 2023
Pam Jenkinson	MStJ	October 2023
Ruth Johnson	MStJ	December 2023

Leonard Martin	MStJ	December 2023
Ruth Reid	CStJ AM Cit WA	January 2024
John Ree	KStJ	January 2024
John Van Der Post	MStJt	January 2024
Isabel Bradbury	MStJ	April 2024
Marylyn Wilson	MStJ	April 2024
Carol Ann Hope	MStJ	May 2024



December 2023
53 year affiliation

Ruth Johnson MStJ

Ruth dedicated more than five decades of service to St John WA after joining the Merredin Combined Division Operations Branch in 1970 as a Volunteer Ambulance Officer. Ruth was a highly respected member of the Merredin community, actively engaging in St John WA’s Cadet program, training the Cadets, and assisting with first aid classes. In 1982, Ruth became an Honorary Life Member of St John and four years later received a Commandery Commendation in recognition of her exemplary service before being invested as a Member of the Order of St John in 1990.



September 2023
34 year affiliation

Mary (Pat) Leeson MStJ

Pat, as she was known, was an honorary life member of the Esperance Sub Centre and Division, having joined in 1973, first in the Operations Branch and then the Esperance Sub Centre.

Pat was an integral part of the Esperance Sub Centre, serving not only as Committee member for 12 years from 1983 and Treasurer from 1993 to 1994; but also as also a Volunteer Ambulance Officer from 1986 to 1995 as well as Class Instructor from 1983 to 1995, where her profession as a school teacher made her a valuable instructor and she gave many hours of her time to instruct the Cadet Division and Cadet team training for district and national competitions. Pat was a highly decorated member of the team, and was invested as a Member of the Order of St John in 2007.



October 2023
47 year affiliation

Pamela (Pam) Jenkinson MStJ

Pam’s accomplishments as part of the Narrogin Sub Centre where beyond reproach, dedicating 47 years’ service to St John WA after joining the organisation in 1977. Pam was appointed Corporal in 1981, Sergeant in 1983 and received the Service Medal in 1988. She served two terms as the Chairman and was highly active within the Narrogin community as well as completing competition work culminating in a second place as a member of the 1984 WA Commandery Competition team in Singapore. She was invested as a Member of the Order of St John in 1999.



December 2023
55 year affiliation

Leonard Martin MStJ

Leonard (Len) Martin MStJ dedicated 44 years to the service of St John WA.

As a volunteer Ambulance Officer Grade II, Leonard joined the Gosnells sub centre in 1979 before transferring to Mandurah in 1980, and finally to Serpentine in 1986. Leonard was an integral part of each sub centre, serving as committee member at each, chairman at Mandurah for four years, and secretary at Serpentine from 1990. Leonard was recognised for his contribution and achievements, receiving a Commandery Commendation from the Order of St John in 1989 and his Service Medal in 1997, before being invested as a Member of the Order of St John the following year.

In 1998 Leonard was recognised by his peers for his outstanding service to the organisation receiving St John WA’s highest honour, being invested as a Member of the Order of St John for his valuable contribution to the Order and St John WA.

Mark of respect



January 2024
40 year affiliation

Ruth Reid CStJ AM Cit WA

Ruth, born in 1921, is renowned for her lifelong dedication to community service. During her husband Professor Gordon Reid AC’s tenure as WA’s 26th Governor, she was invested as a Commander into the Order of St John in 1984.

Ruth dedicated over 50 years to volunteer work, supporting numerous organisations including Save The Children, WA Reconciliation Advisory Group, St John Ambulance, the Blind Institute, and the Autism Association of WA. She was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in 1998 and named Western Australian Citizen of the Year in 2000 for her outstanding contributions to community service.

In 2013, Ruth was announced the winner of the Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award presented at the WA Volunteer of the Year Awards.



January 2024
66 year affiliation

John Ree KStJ

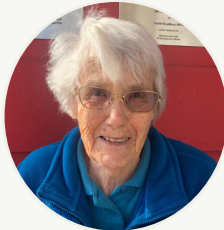
John joined St John on April 1, 1958, at age 17 and went on to become a dedicated volunteer for life. His roles included Event Health Service Officer, Divisional and State Staff, Volunteer Ambulance Officer, and more, serving in Serpentine, York, Victoria Park, Collie, Mandurah, and Belmont. John also combined his first aid skills with rescue work in the State Emergency Service, assisted with flood relief in Queensland, and was part of the WA contingent at the Sydney Olympics. His commitment earned him numerous commendations, including a WA government Certificate of Recognition and knighthood as a Knight of Grace. John’s service to humanity spanned over 65 years.



January 2024
18 year affiliation

John Van Der Post MStJ

Dr John Van Der Post joined St John Ambulance in 2006 and served as Commissioner for the Volunteer First Aid Service, and as a medical consultant. A staff specialist in the Emergency Department at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Joondalup Health Campus, he had a vast background in emergency medicine and paediatrics. His dedication earned him membership in the Order of St John, and he is remembered for his compassionate care and clinical excellence, leaving a lasting legacy in emergency medicine and at St John WA.



April 2024
47 year affiliation

Isabel Bradbury MStJ

Isabel Bradbury, a Life Member of Katanning St John Ambulance, is remembered with deep respect and affection. Beginning as a Cadet in 1972, she later joined as a volunteer, serving as an Office Bearer, Trainer, Phone Coordinator, and Mentor over her 47 years with St John WA.

Isabel was held in high esteem by all who knew her. Her dedication and love greatly impacted the sub centre and its members. Isabel is now reunited with her beloved Clarrie. Her legacy of service and kindness will be cherished. Rest in peace, Isabel, and thank you for your unwavering support.



May 2024
26 year affiliation

Carol Hope ASM MStJJ

Carol Ann Hope, the heart and soul of the Irwin sub centre, passed away on 17 May 2024.

Carol joined in 1998 as a Grade II Ambulance Officer and Peer Supporter in the MAPS program. She eventually became chairperson, bringing enthusiasm and passion to the role. Under her leadership, the sub centre acquired new vehicles, attracted new officers, and built a new facility in 2004.

Carol’s dedication earned her the Ambulance Service Medal in 2006, and she was invested as a Member of the Order of St John in 2011.

Roll of Order Members



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Commandery Lieutenant
Sally Carbon OAM CStJ

Dames of Grace
Billie Andrews DStJ
Merle Isbister ASM OAM DStJ
Edith Khangure OAM DStJ
Carole Schelfhout DStJ

Knights of Grace
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William Barker KStJ
George Ferguson KStJ
Ian Kaye-Eddie AM ASM KStJ
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The Commandery in Western Australia

The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem (the Order of St John) traces its origins back more than 900 years with the modern Anglican order established during the 1800s. It is an Order of Chivalry of the British Crown. Membership is awarded to those who have provided outstanding service to St John. Admittance is a prestigious honour, and those listed represent Western Australian Members.

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Caroline Smith MStJ
Ian Smith MStJ
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Roger Telfer MStJ
Craig Telford ASM MStJ
Pamela Tennant ASM MStJ
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Alan Wright MStJ
James Wright MStJ
David Wright MStJ
Eureka Wu MStJ
Zoe Zarke MStJ

