

L'Ordre Souverain de Saint Jean de Jerusalem Chevaliers Hospitaliers  
**Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem**

\*Knights Hospitaller\*

ABN 16 004 656 964  
 www.osj-nsw.org.au

Under Royal Charter of King Peter II of Yugoslavia  
 Grand Master – HRH Prince Karl Wladimir Karageorgevitch  
 Pro Fide Pro Utilitate Hominum



**PRIORY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

**TIME LINES**

**HM King Peter II**

- \* King of Yugoslavia.
- \* Cousin of Queen Elizabeth II.
- \* Godson of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.
- \* Descendant of Queen Victoria and Tsar Paul I.
- \* Holder of the Grand Cross of The Most Venerable Order of The Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in the UK.
- \* Legitimate proprietor of the most Holy Relic, the Arm of St. John the Baptist the Patron Saint of the Order.



**HRH Prince Karl-Wladimir**

- \* Son of HRH Prince Andrej.
- \* Nephew of HM King Peter II.
- \* Second Cousin of Queen Elizabeth II.
- \* Descendant of Queen Victoria and Tsar Paul I.

**Recognition** of an Hospitaller Order such as the OSJ is primarily determined by the qualities of its membership and the contributions they make to society, and to humanity as a whole. To this end, the OSJ has included amongst its ecumenical Christian ranks several Kings and Princes of Europe, past, current or future: Governors-General, State Governors, Prime Ministers, State Premiers, Senior Federal and State Parliamentarians, Senior Local Government Officers, Senior Clergy from all denominations, leading Medical and Legal practitioners, Senior Military Officers of the three Services; and numerous other prominent Australians from every walk of life such as:  
 the late **Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop, AC, CMG, OBE, GCSJ, OMSJ;** and  
 the late **Sir Hubert "Oppy" Opperman, OBE, GCSJ, OMSJ.**

Napoleon ejected the Order from Malta in **1798**. The majority of the Knights sought refuge in Russia under the 'Protection' of Tsar Paul I. The Seat of the Order was transferred to St. Petersburg, along with the relics, including the most Holy Relic, the Arm of St. John the Baptist. Paul I was elected Grand Master and immediately created two Russian Grand Priors: one Catholic and one Orthodox.

Following the **1905** Russian Revolution and the **1917** Bolshevik Revolution, many Hereditary Commanders emigrated to Europe and America. In **1928**, the most Holy Relic of the Order, the Arm of St. John the Baptist, was transferred to the Royal House of Yugoslavia for protection.

A number of Hereditary Commanders were executive members of the Order, successively taking up the most senior appointments of Lt. Grand Master and Acting Grand Master making the OSJ's lineage from the Russian Orthodox Grand Priory **indisputable**.

Cassagnac was elected Lt. Grand Master in **1960** and subsequently dismisses Pichel as Chancellor. In an illegal counter-move, Cassagnac was subsequently dismissed by a 'Court of Justice' run by Pichel in **1962**.

King Peter II gave his Royal Assent to a Charter for the OSJ in **1963**, as had been done in **1888** by his Great-Great-Great Grandmother, Queen Victoria, who gave her Royal Assent to a Charter recognizing the 'Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England'.

**The ascendance of King Peter II to Grand Master and then Royal Head of the OSJ elevated it to a 'Royal Order of Knighthood' via the fons honorum of an Orthodox Monarch; and in perpetuum 'ad illa fida ad rex propositum' by virtue of the Royal Charter issued to the Order.**

In August **1990**, after the passing of HRH Prince Andrej, his second eldest son HRH Prince Karl-Wladimir accepted the Presidency of the Council of Administration of the OSJ, before becoming the 'Royal Patron' and Deputy Lt. Grand Master of the Order in **1991** during which he reaffirmed that the OSJ was a 'Sovereign Order'. He subsequently accepted the appointment of Grand Master in **2001** upon the passing of HE Conventual Bailiff Zammit.

