



NEW SOUTH WALES HOSPITALLER

www.osj-nsw.org.au



Volume 10 Issue 5

A Newsletter of the Independent Priory of New South Wales
Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem—Knights Hospitaller
King Peter II Constitution—Grand Master HRH Karl Vladimir Karageorgevitch

25 December 2010

Prior
Chevalier Fred Maestrelli GCSJ
P.O. Box 192
Penshurst NSW 2222
AUSTRALIA



Message from the Prior

2010 is nearing to a close and it has been a year full of controversy and challenges that have contributed to a less than ideal atmosphere for carrying out our mission.

Nevertheless, we have overcome difficulties and have been able, with the support of members

and friends, to donate a total of \$23,500 to various deserving organisations.

Unfortunately we have not been able to hold an Investiture this year, however, there are a number of potential Donats awaiting to be invested in 2011.

A major achievement has been the granting by the Grand Master of independent status to the Priory. This means that we come under the direct administration of the Grand Magisterium in London. Accordingly we will be able to directly manage the affairs of the Priory and dispense with one tier of administration.

Currently we are in the process of establishing a Limited Liability Company to which each member of the Priory will belong, and to apply for Deductible Gift Recipient status with the Australian Taxation Office.

The focus for 2011 will be the con-

solidation of the Priory administrative structures and increasing the membership, both in NSW and the ACT, to a level of self sustainability.

It saddened me that a large number of our Brothers and Sisters in Victoria and South Australia have chosen to disassociate themselves from our Grand Magisterium, a decision which I am sure was not taken lightly. They remain our Brothers and Sisters in Saint John and we wish them well in their new venture and extend to them and their families compliments of the Christmas Season and a prosperous New Year.

To members of our Priory and members of the Northern Grand Priory, Victorian Priory and WA Commandery, my sincere appreciation for the support extended to me and my wife Carmen. May Christmas bring you peace and joy which will extend throughout 2011.

Fred Maestrelli

IAN JOHN NICOL, AM, KSJ
INNAUGURAL COMMANDER OF THE RE-FORMED
ACT COMMANDERY

ACT Place Names have given Ian the posthumous honour of naming a street after him in a new private development on the old 'Canberry Fair' site in the ACT suburb of Watson. The theme for Watson's street names is 'Judges and Legal Identities'. In keeping with this theme the street will be called "Ian Nicol Crescent". His wife Dame Meredith Nicol DSJ, was asked to provide a short bio of Ian, which has been reproduced for members.

“Ian was a prominent and very successful solicitor in Canberra.

Born in Nowra on 23 September, 1953, the eldest child of a Royal Naval family, Ian was educated in the UK and Australia before the family moved to Australia permanently and Ian gained the Higher School Certificate in 1971 at Chevalier College, Bowral. At the Australian National University Ian attained an Arts/Law Degree in 1978, also serving as Senior Tutor at John XXIII College. In 1979 he gained a Diploma of Law.

Ian was admitted to Practice as a Barrister & Solicitor in ACT and NSW in 1979; in Victoria in 1988; and in WA, in 1989. He joined Barrads Solicitors in 1979 becoming Partner in 1980. In 1988 he joined Blake, Dawson, Waldron, Lawyers, becoming a Partner from 1989-2001. In 2002 he was the Solicitor for Workcover ACT. From 2002-2003 he opened the Canberra Office of Norton White Lawyers as Partner; and in 2004 he became founding Partner of Williams, Love & Nicol Lawyers, then Chairman of Partners.

Known for his pro bono legal work for the Law Society's Pro Bono Clearing House, Ian was also a Member of the Law Reform Commission ACT 1996-2004; Board Member of the Listed Public Company Jerrabomberra Estate Ltd, 1996-2000; Chairman of Capital Monitor Pty Limited, 1990-2006; and Director of Travinto Nominees Pty Limited, 1991-2001.

Ian worked tirelessly for the community and the Church. He was a very active participant on the Board of the ACT Society for the Physically Handicapped, later 'Hartley Lifecare', beginning as Solicitor in 1979 then as Chairman of the Board 1984-1999. He was a Board Member of Canberra Grammar School from 1992-2002; from 2000 a Board Member of the Commonwealth Club; and from 2006 a Board Member of Focus (ACT) serving victims of intellectual disabilities.

A man of deep Christian faith who loved Christian debate, his kindness and generosity to those in need were legendary. He served the Church all his adult life. At St John's Anglican Church in Reid, he served on the Parish Council from 1982-1986, was Parish Warden 1987-1989, a Member of the Property trust 1987-1992, and a Member of Synod 1994 until his death. In 1996 he became the first Chairman

of the Interim Board of the Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture, thereafter serving on the Executive, and as Deputy Chairman of the Board until his death in 2007. He offered extensive pro-bono legal services to the Centre, pastoral support, and professional advice to Charles Sturt University,

In 2002 Ian was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for “service to people with disabilities and their families through the support services offered by Hartley Lifecare, and to the community through the Anglican Church.” In 2006 he joined the Order of St John of Jerusalem (KSJ). Ian died as the victim of a motor vehicle accident on 26 December, 2007, and is survived by his wife, Meredith, and sons, Alastair, Robert and Malcolm, and their families.”

VALE

Dame Patricia Edna Thompson DCSJ, passed away peacefully at her nursing home on 30 November 2010. A Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Dame Patricia was celebrated at the Holy Cross Catholic Church, Adelaide Street, Woolahra, on Monday 6 December 2010.

Dame Patricia was an energetic supporter of Priory activities and together with husband Chevalier Maurice was a prominent member of the Priory. She was appointed Deputy Prior and served in that role for a number of years until illness overtook her and had to move to a nursing home.

Patricia will be fondly remembered by members who were privileged to have known her.



**MEANING
BEHIND THE
TWELVE DAYS
OF CHRISTMAS
TRUTH
OR
URBAN
LEGEND**

The Twelve Days of Christmas The Meaning Behind The Song ?

The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, the birth of Jesus, and the Epiphany, Jan. 6th, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world.

The Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" may sound silly and contrived to many of us. But it actually had its origins in religious symbolism - and with a serious purpose.

It dates from a time of religious persecution. The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," was written as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without fear of arrest - a learning or memory aid to Christians in fact.

The song can be taken at two levels of interpretation - the surface meaning, or the hidden meaning known only to the Christians involved. Each element is a code word for a religious truth.

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus.
 2. The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.
 3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
 4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels.
 5. The five gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah (Law), or the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.
 6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
 7. The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.
 9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
 10. The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
 11. Eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful Apostles.
 12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed.
- If you think Jesus being symbolized as a partridge in a pear tree sounds blasphemous, remember:
"Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so." (Luke 13:34 and Matthew 23:34)
- The "true love" in the song refers to God Himself. The "me" receiving the gifts is every Christian. So that "silly" song we sing at Christmas time has more meaning than we thought!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

PROMOTIONS

The Grand Master HRH Prince Karl Vladimir Karageorgevitch, has agreed to the elevation in rank of five members. These are the first elevations since the Priory was granted independent status. They are:

- Chevalier Peter Shilton to Knight Commander of Grace
- Chevalier John Posener to Knight Commander of Grace
- Lt Col the Chevalier Schon Condon to Knight of Grace
- Chevalier Oscar Lonngren to Knight of Grace
- Chevalier Tim Street to Knight of Grace

Congratulations for recognition of their commitment to the Priory and the Order. A presentation of Diplomas was made at the Priory Chapter Meeting on 10 December 2010.

Some Important Dates 2011

- *Oblations due by 31 January 2011*
- *First Council meeting 2 February 2011.*
- *Social BBQ 5 or 6 February 2011. (HMAS WATSON)*
- *First Chapter meeting on 11 March 2011.*
- *Fundraiser 8 April 2011.*
- *Investiture 17 June 2011.*
- *Fundraiser and Siege of Malta 7 October 2011.*
- *Council meetings will be held bi-monthly.*
- *Chapter meetings will be held quarterly.*

Further details will be provided in separate notices.

O
S
C
A
R



P
E
T
E
R



Christmas Function and Chapter Meeting

The year ended with a most enjoyable Christmas gathering of members and guests at the NSW Masonic Club, who enjoyed a delicious meal and ample liquid refreshments. It gave the members an opportunity to socialise and relax. It was evident throughout the evening that the stress of the past twelve months has evaporated and we were ready to forge ahead in 2011.

A brief Chapter meeting was held to enable priorities for 2011 to be set and to formally present diplomas to the five members who had been elevated in rank.

T
I
M



P
E
T
E
R



S
C
H
O
N



J
O
H
N

