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A Newsletter of the Priory of New South Wales
Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem—Knights Hospitaller
King Peter II Constitution

30 September 2010

Prior
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AUSTRALIA

NSW INDEPENDENT

Following a petition to the Grand Master in early August 2010, for NSW to become an Independent Priory under the Grand Magisterium, the request was granted in a letter dated 18 September 2010.

“Dear Fred and Brother in St. John,
I am in a position to confirm that the Grand Master has granted independent status to the Priory of New South Wales, which is to be transferred to the administration of the Grand Magisterium.

It should be realised that this is not to be regarded as a permanent state and it is hoped that at some time in the future the way may be clear for a reinstatement into the Grand Priory of Southern Australia, or its legitimate successor.

In the meantime I offer my congratulations and wish you well.

Yours most sincerely in St. John,

Bailiff Anthony Sheill, GCSJ, CMSJ,
Grand Commander”

It is now incumbent upon the Priory Council members to establish, in due course, a process whereby members can transfer from the Southern Grand Priory to a newly formed limited liability company.

Sovereign Council Meeting

Outcomes of the Council Meeting held in London were reported in a special issue of the Hospitaller. The Priory was officially represented by Chevalier Peter Shilton who was accompanied by Dame Dr Susan Shilton. Peter gave a verbal report of the meeting at the Priory’s Chapter meeting held on 7 September 2010. Following is his report on the social events held in conjunction with the meeting. “The Sovereign Council Meeting commenced with a Black Tie Reception in the Court Yard Garden at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. H.E. Bailiff Eddie Power, the Prior of England and host welcomed everybody to London in his inimical way and being late as always.

There were sixteen members and spouses from Australia; and the biggest contingent was from the Northern Grand Priory. Bailiff Tony Rich, Vice Prior Peter Shilton and Dr Susan Shilton represented the Priory. The Grand Master addressed the reception welcoming members and their spouses, especially those who had travelled vast distances to attend a most important conference and prayed for successful outcomes and the continued prosperity of our Order.

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HRH Prince Vladimir and Princess Brigitte, who had fond memories of the last Sovereign Council meeting in Sydney in 2007, warmly received Peter and Susan and sent their warm greetings to the Prior and Members of the NSW Priory.

H.R.H. Princess Brigitte wore a beautiful white embroidered evening dress and looked a picture of elegance, as did the other ladies attending the reception, the men of course showed no flair at all, they were all dressed in the regimental uniform of 'Black Tie and Dinner Jacket'.

The Reception was a very relaxed and friendly affair; all enjoyed the finger food and drinks provided. The reception gave members and their accompanying spouses the opportunity to meet members from Australia, Scandinavia, Scotland, England and France. The Court Yard Garden setting was most pleasant and conducive to forging new friendships.

An early end to Friday's meeting gave all members the opportunity to attend the rehearsal for the Investiture on the Saturday. Members were conveyed by two large coaches to the Church of the Immaculate Conception. After the rehearsal we all enjoyed a supper of good old English fare of 'Bangers and Mash' with onion gravy and 'Vintage 2010' wine.

On Saturday 14 August an afternoon Investiture was held in the magnificent Church of The Immaculate Conception in Mount Street Mayfair for 10 Aspirants from France, who had travelled to London for this special event.

The church is entered by a very unassuming entrance in a small backstreet in Mayfair. Upon entering, a magnificent cathedral like interior appears and is quite unexpected and breathtaking.

The Grand Commander H.E Bailiff Anthony Sheill conducted the Investiture in the ab-

sence of the Grand Master who had to return to Germany.

The Investiture was a grand occasion all the male members of the Order were dressed in White Tie and Tails [Moss Bros Victoria St branch were kept busy] however the ceremony is quite different to that held in our Priory of NSW. I do believe we perform our investiture in a more traditional manner, which gives a more spectacular and solemn experience to the occasion.

The British Pories do not use the Sword for the dubbing; instead the officiant places his hand on the aspirant.

The Grand Commander stated "The only person to use a Sword for 'Dubbing' in The United Kingdom was Her Majesty the Queen".

At the ceremony Chevalier Martin Conlon, from the Priory of Victoria and Chevalier Patrick Keogh from the Priory of England were presented with their certificate of promotion to the rank of Bailiff.

At the end of the ceremony all the members and guests returned to the Hotel for the Reception and Banquet.

A White Tie, Grand Commander's Reception and Banquet were held in the Edwardian Suite, some 120 guests were in attendance. The menu of Smoked Tuna, Pickled Cucumber and Horseradish Dressing, followed by Roast Fillet of Beef with Mange Tout and Cherry Tomatoes and Sea-salt Roast New Potatoes, with a Pink Gin & Tonic Sorbet in between, all finished off with a Knickerbockers Glory. Appropriate wines and drinks were served unfortunately no Australian.

The Ladies were all dressed in their even more fine 'Finery' than the Welcome Cocktail Reception, not to be outdone by the 'Penguins'.

The Grand Commander in a short speech thanked all the members, spouses and guests for attending and looked forward to meeting

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Diabetes Centre Charity Lunch

Over sixty members and friends enjoyed an afternoon at the NSW Masonic Club to raise funds for the Diabetes Centre at St Vincent's Hospital and enjoyed a gourmet lunch and fine wines. Unfortunately the Prior arrived late due to a visit to St George Hospital for some stitches, but was lucky enough to miss the formal speeches, however, managed to savour the excellent main course. Dr Lee our guest speaker gave an informative talk on his current research project which focuses on developing strategies for youths with type one diabetes encountering difficulties in managing the disease whilst living on their own without family supervision. He was able to give us an insight into the culture associated with "rave parties" which surprised many at the lunch.

Chevalier Gary Rossetto did his usual act and conducted a very successful and entertaining auction. Whilst Serving Sister Sheryl Way and able assistant Gina ran the raffle. Chevalier Schon Condon was a natural at filling in as MC.

Together with generous donations from members and friends we were able to raise a total of \$9,000. Congratulations to everyone as this brings the Priory's total contribution to the Centre to \$40,500.00, an excellent effort for our small Priory.



Dr Susan Shilton, Hon. Duncan Gay, Carmen the Vice Chancellor



Prof Campbell, Kathy and Alf Willings discussing ?



Injured but still able to drink!



Roger Johnston, Michael Spencer, Alf Willings, Hon Duncan Gay



John and Michael Hatching new ideas for fund raising!



Gary Rossetto, Ivan Barrow, Dr David Duchesne, Dr Glen Tomkins

them again in 2013 in the Canary Islands where the Sovereign Council will be hosted by the Scandinavian Priors”.



What a motley crew !

