



NEW SOUTH WALES HOSPITALLER

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Volume 11 Issue 5

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

30 September 2011

Prior
Chevalier Fred Maestrelli GCSJ
P.O. Box 192
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AUSTRALIA

Grand Priory of Australasia Forging Ahead

PARLIAMENT HOUSE LUNCH

The Diabetes Centre at Saint Vincent's Hospital will be the beneficiary of a charity fundraising lunch being held at the NSW Parliament House on Friday 7 October 2011. The Hon. Duncan Gay MLC Minister for Ports and Roads will be our host and Celebrity Chef Tony Bilson our guest speaker. Our resident Auctioneer Chevalier Garry Rossetto will be applying his talents in extracting generous bids for items going under the hammer. A must not miss event.

INVESTITURE

Our second Investiture for the year will be held on Friday 18 November 2011, commencing at 6:30 pm. The venue will be the Saint John the Evangelist Anglican Church at Gordon. The celebratory dinner will be held at the well known and I am told often frequented by some of our members, Greengate Hotel.



ACTING COUNCIL

The Acting Council of the Grand Priory of Australasia met by Teleconference on 26 July 2011. All nominations received for the permanent appointment of a Grand Prior were forwarded to the Grand Commander for consideration by the Petit Conseil and the Grand Master. It is expected that an appointment will be made by 1 November 2011. Further consideration is being given to the constitutional arrangements for the Grand Priory. A discussion paper has been forwarded by NSW for consideration by members of the Acting Council.

The next meeting is scheduled for 30 September 2011, members will be kept informed of developments.

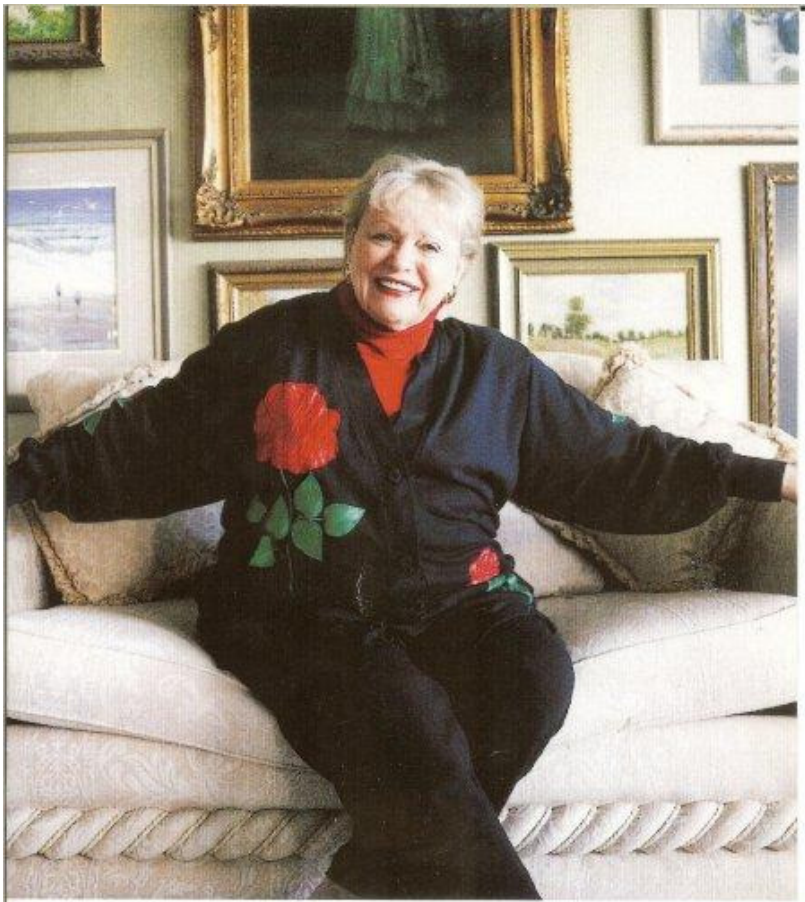
Mother and Child Relief Foundation

The Priory made a donation of £1,000 to the OSJ International Charity to assist in the provision of medical equipment to conflict ravaged areas of Europe.

Go to www.mcfosj.org for further information or Facebook. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mother-and-Child-Relief-Foundation-OSJ/160363507369468>

The first church was built as a result of a petition sent to the governor through the Bishop of Sydney by 36 local inhabitants. Robert Pymble, William Henry McIntosh and John Brown were appointed trustees and the land was knocked down to them for 37 pounds. The church was designed by Edmund Blackett and the foundation stone was laid on October 26, 1872.

V A L E



Margaret Lady Stevenson

11th July 1933 - 3rd August 2011

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A model for helping others

Many people do not realise the extent of their influence on others. In the case of Maggie Stevenson, that influence was profound.

She came from a humble background in Mildura in rural Victoria and by the time of her death in Canberra she had lived a full, complete life which also touched those around her and improved the lot of many.

Her life turned out to be a rich, happy and vibrant life so she had no fear as she faced the long illness which she knew would inevitably end it.

Born Margaret Lorraine Wheeler, she was raised by her parents John and Mary Ann during the Depression, a time of rapid social change.

When she was still a young girl the family moved to Melbourne and later, during the war years, she auditioned for an after-school position as a photographic model.

It was a pivotal moment and led to a full-time career. By the age of 17, she had become the Model of the Year in Victoria and eventually worked for Pierre Cardin and Balenciaga in Paris.

She attended MacRobertson Girls School in Melbourne and later undertook a Diploma in

Lady 'Maggie' Stevenson
Model, fundraiser, community campaigner

Born: July 11, 1933, Mildura
Died: August 3, 2011, Canberra

Needlecraft at the Emily MacPherson College.

An active and whirlwind career in fashion and modelling followed, including at one stage founding a modelling school in Canberra after she had moved there and discovered there was no such thing at the time.

She took on an even greater challenge while living in Bangkok, where she founded the first modelling school in Asia. Her Maids of Siam established an international reputation.

Married twice during her life, her first husband was Commander Graham Wright RAN, whom she wed in Melbourne in 1958. In 1979, in Sydney, she married another naval officer,



ACHIEVER: Lady Maggie Stevenson campaigned for better conditions for other models and was active in the community.

Sir David Stevenson AC KBE RAN.

He was later to become the Chief of the Naval Staff. When Sir David retired from service he became Chair of the Tall Ships for Australia Bicentennial Celebrations and was ably assisted by Lady Stevenson in this adventure.

She convinced the international chairman to organise a berth for her aboard the Polish tall ship the *Pergoria* as it sailed from Amsterdam to Bremerhaven.

With this duty done, the couple retired to Canberra. However they later escaped the cold weather of Canberra, mov-

ing to the Gold Coast where Lady Stevenson threw herself into charity work with great vigour and enthusiasm.

She had earlier been instrumental in fighting for the rights of models and was the chief witness in presenting a log of claims before the Arbitration Commission, including a claim that models should be remunerated for their work and not have to put up with gifts of stockings and the like.

She became their delegate on the ACTU and as a result of her performance was invited by its (then) president, Bob Hawke, to apply for an ACTU scholarship to the Mt Eliza Administrative Staff College where she became the first woman to attend that college.

While living on the Gold Coast she also founded the National Network of Women, which raised significant funds for breast cancer research.

Lady Stevenson also raised funds for the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse, and Neglect's campaign against child abuse.

Her substantial charity works were recognised when she was invited to become a Dame of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem. This was one of

the great highlights of her life. She worked enthusiastically for the Order, particularly in the Gold Coast Commandery, and was the first female in the world to be appointed a Commander of the Order.

Her contribution was recognised last year with the award of the Medal of Merit, which was formally presented to her a few months before she died.

Lady Stevenson kept residences both on the Gold Coast and in Canberra, but eventually the attraction of Canberra proved too strong and she moved back there for the last few years of her life.

Her home overlooking Lake Burley Griffin was more like a very active private gallery than a normal suburban unit as she loved the art world and enjoyed painting.

Her funeral was held at the Duntroon chapel where Sir David was buried 12 years ago. A memorial service for her will be held at the Chapel of St Alban at The Southport School, by the Order, on August 25.

Lady Stevenson is survived by her daughter Tookie, her son Matthew and six grandchildren.

George Kearney

GREAT SIEGE OF MALTA 1565

On 7 Septembers 2011 members of the Priory gathered at the NSW Masonic Club to commemorate the victory of the Knights of Saint John over the forces of the Ottoman Empire who had laid siege to the island of Malta. The Knights and the Maltese inhabitants had endured a gruelling 112 days of fighting and deprivation during the siege. The Prior Chevalier Fred Maestrelli gave a brief outline of the events leading to, during and after the siege. There was no quarter given by either side as the following excerpt illustrates:

“The alarm was raised. More of these strange objects drifted into view, and men waded into the shallows to drag them to the shore. What they found horrified even these battle-weary veterans: wooden crosses pushed out by the enemy to float in the harbour, and crucified on each was the headless body of a Christian Knight.

This was psychological warfare at its most brutal; a message sent by the Turkish Muslim commander whose invading army had just vanquished the small outpost of Fort St Elmo.

Now the target was the one remaining fort on the harbour front where the beleaguered, outnumbered and overwhelmed Christians were still holding out; the Fort St Angelo. The Turkish commander wished its defenders to know that they would be next, that a horrible death was the only outcome of continued resistance.

But the commander had not counted on the mettle of his enemy - the Knights of St John. Nor on the determination of their leader Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valette, who vowed that the fort would not be taken while one last Christian lived in Malta.

On news of the grotesque discovery of the headless knights - many of them his personal friends - Grand Master Valette quickly ordered that captured Turks imprisoned deep in the vaulted dungeons of the fort be taken from their cells, and beheaded one by one.

Then he returned a communiqué of his own: the heads of his Turkish captives were fired from his most powerful cannon direct into the Muslim lines. There would be no negotiation, no compromise, no surrender, and no retreat.”

Members had the opportunity to socialise and the occasion was opportune to present Serving Brother **Barnie McKinnon** with his Diploma and neck decoration and to present Dame **Carmen Maestrelli** DCSJ with the Medal and Diploma awarding her the Medal of Merit Saint John. Carmen is currently the only recipient of the MMSJ in the NSW Priory.



Dame Carmen Maestrelli DCSJ MMSJ



Barnie McKinnon SBSJ

