



Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller – Australasia

Under the Constitution given by His Late Majesty King Peter II of Yugoslavia
Lieutenant Grand Master OSJ Malta, H E Bailiff Paul Borg OSJ

Grand Priory of Australasia

From the Office of Secretary, Chevalier Graeme Gatley CGSJ

Minutes of the Grand Chapter Meeting held at Christ Church, Jeffcott St., North Adelaide on Saturday 26th June 2021 at 9.30am.

Present: Grand Prior Chevalier David Wilckens (Chairman) and 51 members.

1. **Opening Prayer:** At the invitation of the Chairman, the Prelate, Chevalier the Reverend Canon David O'Neill, led the meeting with prayer.
2. **Welcome:** The Grand Prior welcomed those present making special mention of the six Aspirants in attendance.
3. **Apologies and proxy:** Apologies were received from 9 members, and 57 Proxies were tabled.
 - A list of attendees, Proxy votes and apologies is attached as Appendix A**Declaration of Quorum**
 - The Secretary declared that a Quorum was present.
4. **Conflict of Interest:** The Secretary invited Knights and Dames present to record a possible Conflict of Interest. No Conflict of Interest was indicated by those present.
5. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th October 2020:** Chevalier Peter Robertson moved, seconded by Chevalier Prior Tony Woods that the minutes of the Grand Chapter meeting 2020 be taken as read and approved.

Carried

6. **Business arising from the Minutes:** OSJ Constitution

HE Bailiff Emeritus Dr Brian North **Moved** that the *“That the Annual Grand Chapter meeting adopt the revised Constitution of the Grand Priory of Australasia.”*

The Motion was **Seconded** by Chevalier Dr Baden Teague.

HE Bailiff Brian North spoke to the Motion outlining the process that had been followed in the preparation of this new Constitution. Key elements of his address were that *“The Constitution was last reviewed in 2016 and requires updating. Since February 2020, Bailiff Brian North and Chevalier Richard Trigg have been working on appropriate amendments to the Constitution. These amendments have been discussed at numerous meetings of the Grand Priory Council and the proposed document tabled today is supported by the Council, which includes the Prior from the three Priories. In March 2021, the Grand Priory Council passed a motion recommending the revised Constitution be adopted by the Grand Chapter meeting.”*

Grand Prior Chapter 2021

The Prior of South Australia, Chevalier Prof Tony Woods, spoke in favor of the motion recommending to the membership present that they support its endorsement. As no other Knights or Dames wished to speak to the Motion the Chairman put it to the vote which was supported unanimously.

As Clause 33 of the Constitution was met, specifically that the resolution was passed by at least 75% of votes cast by members entitled to attend and vote on this resolution either in person or by proxy had been satisfied the Chairman declared the Motion to be **CARRIED**.

Prior of South Australia, Chevalier Prof Tony Woods proposed a Vote of Thanks to Deputy Grand Prior Chevalier Richard Trigg and HE Emeritus Bailiff Brian North, and all others who assisted in the production of this new Constitution and associated Manual. This was agreed to with acclamation.

7. Reports:

a) Grand Prior:

It is an honour to present this Report to the Grand Priory Annual Grand Chapter Meeting and in doing so, to review the events for the year since the last Grand Priory Chapter Meeting.

I bring Greetings and Best Wishes to all members of our Grand Priory from the Lieutenant Grand Master HE Bailiff Paul Borg OSJ.

The Grand Priory Council has met four times over the year with Zoom Technology with the latest this month on the 4th June.

Deputy Grand Prior Chevalier Richard Trigg has been a great help to me and the Grand Priory Council. In February I appointed Dame Leonie Clyne as Grand Priory Chamberlain to give more time for Chevalier Richard to be involved in new projects. Bailiff Brian North has been the Grand Priory Chancellor for nearly 10 years with an ever-increasing workload. In March, I was pleased to appoint Chevalier Graeme Gatley as Grand Priory Vice Chancellor to assist Bailiff Brian.

Dame Rosemary Brooks is now the Grand Priory Minute Secretary, as well as assisting Chevalier Alex Anderson on Grand Priory Extensions. Councilor Elida Brereton has been appointed Grand Priory Obituary Registrar.

At the June Grand Priory Council Meeting I was pleased to announce the appointment of Chevalier John Emmerson to the Council. His expertise in law and tax will make him a great contributor to the Grand Priory Council.

It has been 4 years since the last review of our Constitution. A review of this document has now been completed and was put to the members of the Grand Priory for approval today. I wish to record my thanks to Deputy Grand Prior Richard Trigg, who was assisted by Bailiff Brian North and advice from Chevalier Judge Peter Herriman for their work to achieve this review.

A meeting of The OSJ New Zealand Charitable Foundation Ltd and a Meeting of the New Zealand Members of the Grand Priory was held by Zoom in April.

For legal reasons and for the preservation of the tax status of the Foundations in New Zealand and Australia, only New Zealand residents can be Directors of the Foundation and all funds donated directly to local Charities.

The Directors appointed to the New Zealand Foundation are Dame Judy Jones and Chevalier Dr Ross Blair.

To protect the Grand Priory's interest the OSJ Australasian Charitable Foundation Ltd, will be the sole shareholder of all the shares in the New Zealand Charitable Foundation. A new Constitution has now been finalized and the registration of the Crest submitted to the New Zealand authorities.

Most of you would be aware of the historical document Dame Mary Lewis produced a few years ago on the 'First Fifty Years of the Order in Australia'. Dame Mary has updated this document in January this year and will continue to do so on a yearly basis. Please view the Grand Priory Web page for these updates.

Last year in October, I was honored to invest 5 new Knights into the Grand Priory in Adelaide, which was the only Investiture conducted in the world by our International Order due to Covid-19.

Subsequently, an Investiture was held in Victoria in February with 7 new Knights and Dames joining our Grand Priory, followed by the Tasmanian Priory Investiture in March with 6 Knights and Dames.

The Grand Priory is growing and is in a very healthy state. With the August Victorian Investiture, and today's South Australian Investiture there will be an additional 27 new members into our Grand Priory this year.

Promotions are important to those members who have contributed to the Order. In the last 12 months I was honored to present the Cross of Merit to Grand Prior Emeritus Peter Wiltshire which was an award from our Lieutenant Grand Master.

The Grand Prior has the privilege to recommend to the Lieutenant Grand Master his own promotions to recognize a member's meritorious service to the Order.

It was a great honor and privilege last year to nominate and promote Prior Dame Barbara Abley, Past Priors Chevaliers David Wotton and John Jackson, and Chevalier Barry Abley to Grand Cross of Justice.

Since my last report I have attended 10 Priory Administration Council Meetings, either in person, or by Zoom which gave me a great understanding of the excellent work of the three Pories.

I have attended by WebeX technology four Petit Conseil Meetings in the last 12 months. It is a privilege for our Grand Priory to be able to put matters of importance to this executive Council of our Order, and to hear the views of the Conventual Bailiffs and their Lieutenants.

The Directors of the OSJ Charitable Foundation Ltd met 3 times to endorse donations made this financial year, and to confirm a list of balances held on behalf of each Priory.

During the year \$79,416.00 were distributed by the Company and the Foundation to the ultimate beneficiaries

The charities that have been supported over the past year by the Tasmanian Priory consist of the Hobart Mission to Seafarers, and a donation to the St Mary's Catholic Cathedral Development fund for food Vouchers. The Victorian Priory donations were to BlazAid, the Victorian Bush Fire Appeal , the Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders Christmas Appeal, Uniting Care Ballarat Destitute and welfare Recipients, and the Geelong Commandery donated to the local Christ Church Meals Program. South Australia continues to generously support the Mary Potter Hospice Foundation and this year gave to Blaze Aid Bush Fire Recovery.

All members of the Grand Priory are to be commended for their generosity and hard work in raising these funds.

I extend a very big thank you to Treasurer Chevalier Peter Robertson for his work and attention to detail on the accounts of the Order's Charitable Foundation, and also those of the Grand Priory.

The Bulletin was first published in March last year enabling members of the Order to be kept informed of important matters being dealt with by the Grand Priory Council. The fifth publication will be circulated in July , and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Editor, Dame Barbara Abley.

I would like to particularly thank Vice Grand Prior Chevalier Richard Trigg and our three hard working and dedicated Priors who are the public face of our Order. To Secretary / Vice Chancellor Chevalier Graeme Gatley, Bailiff Brian North and to all members of the Council, I thank you for your contribution and support, not only in your various portfolios, but also to the Order generally.

Our Prelate, Chevalier The Reverend Canon David O'Neill also needs our special thanks. He is our spiritual leader, normally conducting our Investitures, contributes to the Grand Priory Council and leads us in prayer. Furthermore, he instigated pastoral posts being placed on the Grand Priory Web Page during the pandemic and is continuing to post on special religious events with the assistance of our Priory Chaplains.

In addition, I extend thanks to all Knights and Dames, Serving Sisters and Serving Brothers of our Grand Priory for your contribution to the Order and for your support and assistance over the last 12 months. I look forward to our continuing success in the forthcoming year

Chevalier David Wilckens CJSJ

June 26th, 2021

The Grand Prior moved his Report be received, Seconded by Chevalier Prior Emeritus David Wotton **Carried**

Grand Prior Chapter 2021

Grand Priory Council Members - July 2021:

Grand Prior: Chevalier David Wilckens CJSJ
 Deputy Grand Prior and: Chevalier Richard Trigg KJSJ
 Chancellor: H E Bailiff Brian North AO RFD OSJ
 Secretary & Vice Chancellor: Chevalier Graeme Gatley CGSJ
 Treasurer: Chevalier Peter Robertson CGSJ
 Prior of SA: H E Chevalier Prof Tony Woods CJSJ
 Prior of Victoria: H E Dame Barbara Abley AM GCSJ
 Prior of Tasmania: HE Chevalier John Kennedy KJSJ
 Vice Prior of Tasmania: Chevalier Edward Gauden OAM CGSJ
 Hospitaller: Dame Jan Synot OAM DJSJ
 Extension Co-ordinator: Chevalier Alexander Anderson OAM CGSJ
 Extension Co-ordinator Lieutenant: Dame Rosemary Brooks OAM CGSJ
 Chamberlain: Dame Dr Leonie Clyne OAM DGSJ
 Obituary Registrar: Dame Elida Brereton CGSJ
 Chevalier John Emerson AM KSJ

By Invitation

Prelate (ex Officio): Chevalier the Reverend Canon David O'Neill KJSJ
 Archivist: Dame Mary Lewis OAM CJSJ
 Judge of the Supreme Court of the Order (by Invitation of the Grand Prior): HE Chevalier Peter Herriman RFD CGSJ

Reports b)

- i) **Prior of South Australia:** The South Australian Prior Chevalier Tony Woods delivered his report and proposed that it be received. Seconded by Chevalier Mark Trueman **Carried**
- ii) **Prior of Victoria:** Due to COVID 19 travel restrictions precluding her attendance the Report from the Prior of Victoria, Dame Barbara Abley was tabled by the Secretary. It was moved by the Grand Prior that it be received, Seconded by Chevalier Edward Gauden **Carried**
- iii) **Prior of Tasmania:** Due to COVID 19 travel restrictions precluding his attendance the Report from the Prior of Tasmania, Chevalier John Kennedy was tabled by the Secretary. It was moved by Chevalier Edward Gauden that it be received, Seconded by Chevalier Peter Summers. **Carried**
- c) **Chancellor:** The Chancellor proposed his report as previously circulated be received. Seconded by Chevalier Michael Willson. **Carried**

The Chancellor made some brief comments on the increase in membership numbers since the last Grand Priory Chapter meeting and that the date of the 2021 Sovereign Council Meeting had been deferred due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

- d) **Accounts and Audit:** The Treasurer that his Report previously circulated had been changed as a result of the Auditors report has been received and is unqualified.. The Income level previously reported as a loss of \$17,000 should now read a loss of \$45,00 and expensed previously shown as a reduction of \$10,000 should now read a reduction of \$18,000. With these amendments the Treasurer moved the Audited Financial Statements be received, Seconded by Prior Emeritus David Wotton. **Carried**

The Treasurer moved that the Chapter Meeting appoint Crowe Melbourne as Auditors for the 2021-2022 financial year and that the Grand Priory Council determine the fee. Seconded by Chevalier Mark Trueman. **Carried**

8. Other Business: Nil

9. Closing Prayer: The meeting closed at 9.50 am, with a closing prayer from the Prelate Chevalier the Reverend Canon David O'Neill,

Approved

Chairman

Date

APPENDIX A

List of attendees at the following meetings of The Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller – Australasia on Saturday 26th June 2021 at Christ Church Hall, Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide.
 Grand Priory of Australasia Chapter meeting held at 9.30am.
 Priory of South Australia Chapter meeting held at 9.53am.

Aiken, Carl	Pearson, Steve
Bassett, David	Potts, Julie
Black, Robert	Robertson, Peter
Bleby, David	Sarah, Don
Capps, Roger	Seaton, John
Caruso, David	Stewart, Don
Clyne, Leonie	Summers, Peter
d'Assumpcao, Henry	Teague, Baden
Davidson, Di	Trueman, Mark
Dennis, Richard	Tyler, Ella
Denton, Mark	Vercoe, Chris
Gatley, Graeme	Walsh, Geoffrey
Harley, John	Wilckens, David
Herriman, Peter	Willson, Michael
Howard, Jim	Withers, Mary
Irwin, Bin	Woods, Tony
Lane, Harold	Wotton, David
Lawson, Robert	Interstate visitors:
Llewellyn-Smith, Michael	O'Neill, David
Meyer, David	Gauden, Ed
Miller, Edith	Aspirant Observers:
Miller, Michael	Chapman, Grant
Moore, Jill	Clements, Gaele
Mudge, Craig	Ferguson, Christine
Murray, Simon	Hoffmann, Phil
Murray, Patsy	Lipman, Gerald
North, Brian	Walker, Carren

2021 OSJ Grand Priory Chapter Mtg Proxy Votes and Apologies

Dame Barbara	Abley	Chevalier Peter	Morey
Chevalier Alex	Anderson	Chevalier Bill	Morgan
Dame Beverley	Arnold	Chevalier Wayne	Myers
Chevalier Graeme	Boyles	Chevalier Jeff	Nicholas
Chevalier Des	Bradley	Chevalier Damian	Noseda
Dame Kate	Brown	Dame Yvonne	O'Neill
Chevalier Robert	Bull	Chevalier Ian	Olver
Chevalier Geoffrey	Christopherson	Chevalier John	Sangster
Dame Leonie	Christopherson	Dame Val	Sarah
Chevalier David	Clarke	Chevalier Merv	Simmons
Chevalier Dr Bruce	Eastick	Dame Helen	Simmons

Grand Prior Chapter 2021

Dame Helen	Edwards	Chevalier Graeme	Sims
Dame Judith	Ellis	Chevalier John	Spencer
Chevalier John	Emerson	Dame Mary	Sutherland
Chevalier Michael	Evans	Chevalier Ross	Synot
Dame Carolyn	Grantskains	Dame Jan	Synot
Chevalier Robert	Gribben	Chevalier Richard	Trigg
Dame Karen	Hayes	Dame Helen Trigg	Trigg
Chevalier John	Jackson	Chevalier Peter	Tullgren
Chevalier Russell	Jones	Chevalier Richard	Walsh
Prior John	Kennedy	Chevalier Bernie	Walshe
Chevalier Graham	Kent	Chevalier Rev Peter	Watson
Chevalier David	Klingberg	Dame Angela	Wheelton
Chevalier Bruno	Krumins	Chevalier Paul	Wheelton
Chevalier Marcus	La Vincente	Chevalier Jim	Wilkinson
Chevalier Peter	Lane	Bailiff Peter	Wiltshire
Chevalier Andrew	Leithner	Chevalier John	Winkett
Dame Dianne	McGrath		

Apologies from

Chevalier Barry	Abley
Chevalier Keith	Brice
Dame Margaret	Hamilton
Chevalier Max	Lemon
Chevalier Garry	Lines
Chevalier Andrew	McLachlan
Chevalier Creagh	O'Connor
Chevalier Graeme	Wallis