

Sharing news from the Order of St John

Relief in Philippines after typhoon Haiyan: Johanniter

Typhoon Haiyan is one of the most severe typhoons ever to have hit South East Asia.

In total 618,000 people lost their homes and according to the UN, 9.5 million people are affected by the typhoon. Now, in the aftermath of the devastation caused by typhoon Haiyan the people are struggling for survival. The situation in the affected areas is chaotic; many regions are cut off from the outside world. In cooperation with its local partner organisation "Balay Mindanaw Foundation", Johanniter International Assistance, the department responsible for humanitarian assistance within the German St John association and JOIN member Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe supports the affected people.



Doctor Pramendorfer treating a patient

The affected regions are slowly recovering from the recent disaster,



The portable water station is able to produce 1,200 litre of clean water per day.

according to reports from the medical care team. They report that water supply is restored in many places, important roads are again open to traffic, rubble is cleared away and some schools and shops have reopened. However, many people in the affected regions will continue to need aid to maintain health and, for the future, to rebuild houses and shelters, and the whole infrastructure of the area.

The Johanniter International Assistance operation centre, at the federal office, is prolonging its aid assistance. A new seven-person team of volunteers flew into the Philippines from Frankfurt on 22 November.

In addition to first aid provision, the Johanniter is distributing food in the disaster areas. Food packages are distributed to 1,000 families per day. The German foreign ministry has donated 350,000 Euros for relief supplies. Also, a second Johanniter "Health Kit" has been flown to Manila to be distributed to affected regions. This delivery includes 50 wheelchairs, which arrive as an assembly kit and will be put together on site. Local helpers will be trained in adjusting the wheelchairs by a voluntary orthopaedic technician from the Johanniter partner organisation "Balay Mindanaw Foundation."

Jürgen Schill, the Federal Office Unit Manager for Volunteers, expressed his gratitude to team members: "You are doing a great job. The information flow to the emergency helpers is great. That is motivating for everyone remaining at home or otherwise engaged."

The Johanniter are gratefully accepting donations. For more information visit: www.johanniter.org

New Lord Prior announced

On 18th November, Professor Mellows, the current Lord Prior, announced to the Heads of all Establishments that HM The Queen, as Sovereign Head of the Order of St John, has approved the selection of Dr Neil Conn AO to be his successor as Lord Prior from St John's Day, 25 June 2014.

Professor Mellow said:

"Dr Conn will be known to many of you as the Immediate Past Chancellor of the Priory of Australia, and I know that when I hand over the reins on St John Day next year, the Order will be in very safe hands."

News from around the world...

Sub Prior and Deputy Sub Prior

We thought we'd tell you more about your new Sub Prior and Deputy Sub Prior who were welcomed to their posts earlier in the year on St John's Day.



Sub Prior Stuart Shilson will steer the Order's International agenda. He started work as a barrister and joined McKinsey and Co consultancy group in 1997. In 1999 he left to work at the Cabinet Office and two years later he became Assistant Private Secretary to HM The Queen. Returning to McKinsey & Co in 2005, he now advises on all aspects of strategy. Stuart was President of Richmond & Mortlake Division, St John Ambulance, from 2000 to 2007 and has

assisted the Order since 2004 on various committees.

Canadian John Mah QC is the new Deputy Sub Prior. John has a background of professional, charity and advocacy experience, having been a Partner in Law firm Chomicki Baril Mah LLP since 1986; and serving on a number of charity boards; and dedicating over 20 years of his life to service with St John including the position of Chancellor of St John Canada.



International Office visit from Archbishop Desmond Tutu

On Thursday 21st November the St John International team hosted celebrated social rights activist (and Prior of St John South Africa) Archbishop Desmond Tutu at our offices in London.

The Archbishop's packed London tour, on behalf of St John, involved a private audience with HM The Queen at Buckingham Palace; a visit with St John International staff to discuss growth and its new focus on international development programmes; and the Archbishop also attended The Order of St John Knights and Dames Investiture ceremony, conducted by HRH The Duke of Gloucester, the Grand Prior.



Archbishop Tutu kindly agreed to conduct an interview in support of the Order, and in launching our new identity of St John International (see the back page for more info). With the help of the communications social enterprise, Goodwork, we have some beautiful video footage of the Archbishop talking about St John's work. You can watch these on our St John International YouTube channel. Through adding his voice in support of St John's new Mother and Child Programme on this visit, Tutu advocates for more people to support St John in our efforts to improve maternal and newborn mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa – a region which still accounts for 56% of global maternal deaths.

The International Office has lots of high quality photos available for anybody in the St John family who would like them. Please contact Saffi or Louisa at the International Office.



St John Western Australia Youth Initiative

Tony Ahern (CEO of St John Western Australia) talks of the new focus for the St John Youth Programme - "Making first aid a part of everyone's life."

In March 2013, St John Ambulance Western Australia introduced its new program to achieve its primary objective of making first aid training a part of everyone's life. We required an innovative approach to engage more young people in achieving this goal.

We decided to move away from the traditional activities to focus on first aid for young people, having already been successful with free schools-based First Aid Focus programs, which taught 75,000+ students last year.

In the current program, enrolments have dropped by over 50 per cent in ten years. The new program will help reverse this trend and bring

first aid skills to thousands more school children.



An important aspect of the program is the establishment of a "first aid unit" within schools or youth groups, in which participants can practice their skills at events under the supervision of St John Ambulance volunteers. This will help instil an ethos of community service and giving back to the community, and will help students develop communication and leadership abilities and improve their confidence.

The response to the program since it began in June has been overwhelming. Enrolments quickly reached over 500 students – double the previous enrolment numbers. The new program will help us train thousands of young people in first aid over the next decade. It will help young people considering careers as health professionals or those interested in volunteering as first aiders.

With the new Western Australian

youth program, our goals for young people are:-

- Teach every school student in the First Aid Focus program, which has short courses with modules for students of different ages.
- Engage up to 10,000 students in partnership with the State Government's Cadets WA program to teach a more comprehensive first aid program and facilitate the practice of first aid at school or community group events.
- Provide transitional opportunities for 16-18 year olds to practice first aid to facilitate career opportunities in health areas.

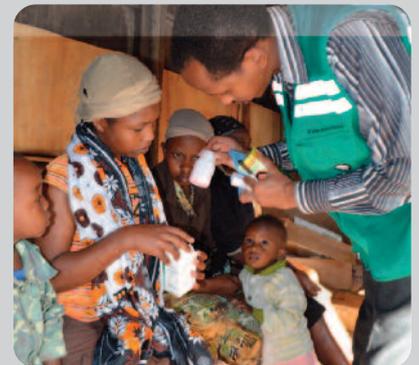


St John Ambulance Western Australia remains committed to investing in our youth. We are sure this program will enrich the lives of our children by equipping them with the necessary skills needed to care for the sick and injured thereby making them better citizens.

Free healthcare brings hope to poverty-stricken in Nairobi

Disease is rife in poverty-stricken slums of Nairobi, Kenya. With poor sanitation, infection spreads quickly, which can be fatal for children. Many people in the informal settlements die because they cannot afford medical treatment or care, or transport to hospital.

Virginia Muthee, 24 toils to make ends meet in Lunga Lunga. The little money she gets from odd jobs does not cover food for her three sickly children, and she was losing hope. But Virginia's despair turned to joy as a team of doctors from St John Ambulance and the Presbyterian Church came and gave her children free checkups and medication. Virginia is one of thousands of needy residents of slums in Nairobi who benefited from the free medical camp organised by the St John Ambulance partnership with the Presbyterian Church. Dr Steve Nigel, a volunteer from St John Kenya, says many who were treated had respiratory tract infections, diarrhea, and arthritis.



Grateful residents urged organisers to consider setting up a free or low cost hospital for needy people in slums. The new Kenyan Constitution guarantees proper medical care for all, but healthcare is inaccessible to the poor as public hospitals are limited and cannot meet the demands for the expanding slum population, which is about 2.2 million in Nairobi. The free medical attention shall go a long way in improving the quality of life for the needy living in slums.

News in brief....

Live Webcast links for International Cadet

Camp *Be a part of it!* As

featured in edition 44 of the Link, St John Australia will be hosting the International Cadet Camp this January. You can find a live webcast of the event on

YouTube



www.youtube.com/user/stjohnambulanceaus



Website

www.stjohn.org.au/ICCTV



Twitter
#ICCTV



Organ Donation Awards

In the UK around 3 people die every day due a shortage of organ donations. In partnership with the UK National Health Service, the Order of St John has created an award to posthumously recognise the contribution that organ donors have made to many others and to celebrate the bravery of their loved ones. The Award also raises awareness of organ donation across the UK and represents a shared belief in the invaluable role of organ donation across all faiths and backgrounds.

The Award was launched in glittering style at St James' Palace, London ceremony where TRH the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, awarded families of 33 organ donors. The Award is now subsequently available to the next of kin of all UK citizens who have posthumously donated organs after April 2012 and there will be regional ceremonies taking place throughout the UK.



St John Mauritius opens a new St John Ambulance Division



St John Mauritius were celebrating a new Division in Rodrigues Island, one of the smallest islands in the world, with a population of approximately 30,000, situated 350 miles off the coast. There are 12 members who are all professional firefighters working for the Establishment.

The designate Divisional Superintendent, Mr Christian Roussety, seen in the photo in a white uniform, taking an Oath of Allegiance with his counterparts, Ex-Officio members of the Council of St John Mauritius.

Find us on Social Media as 'St John International'

The Order of St John may be one of the oldest charities in the world but we're modernising. We're adapting to the world of other global charities. You can find us at 'St John International.'

Please follow, subscribe, join in, get involved - its a great way to connect with all of St John around the world!

We're also reaching out for your support and accepting donations. Please visit our website for more information.



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You Tube 'St John International'



Farewell Esther - Esther Bloom who, for 9 years

has been the PA to the numerous Secretary Generals in the International Office is moving on. Esther has seen the International Office transform over the past decade and remained a consistent and loyal employee. We thank Esther for all of her brilliant work and service to St John, she will be dearly missed by all.

Log onto the private area of the Order's website today by visiting www.orderofstjohn.org/members-area. Contact saffi.jones@orderofstjohn.org if you need the username and password.

If you have any stories you would like to be covered in The Link or you would like information on any of the news featured in this edition, please contact Saffi Jones at the St John International Office at

saffi.jones@orderofstjohn.org

or ++44 (0)20 7251 3292

Dates for the Diary....

- 5th December - Inauguration of the Priory of Kenya, Nairobi
- 24th December - 2nd January 2014 - International Office closed for Christmas and New Year
- 11th January - Inauguration of the Priory of Singapore, Singapore
- 13th - 17th January - Mother & Child programme summit, Zambia
- 19th-20th February - OHAC and Steering Committee meetings, London