



**St John**  
International

# The Link

*Sharing news from St John International*

## Hello!

Welcome to our autumn newsletter.

We hope you will enjoy reading the latest updates from St John around the world.

### FIND US ONLINE

[www.stjohninternational.org](http://www.stjohninternational.org)



You can find all the latest International and Order news, information on St John Establishments and the many ways to support us.

## Providing first aid cover at Singapore Grand Prix



During this month, 135 St John personnel were deployed to provide first aid and ambulance support services for the annual Grand Prix in Singapore. This included doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians, responders and first aid volunteers. The Grand Prix is one of the largest highlights of Singapore's annual tourist calendar.

For the tenth consecutive year, St John Singapore has been ensuring the public's well-being throughout the operational hours of the Circuit Park. Each year, an average of more than 400 casualties over the 3 days are treated, and this year St John performed 14 ambulance evacuations to hospitals and over 25 evacuations to advanced medical posts.

A spokesperson from St John Singapore said, *"It's amazing to see such dedicated volunteers, some of whom were on shift for all three days!"*

*"We are pleased that the Grand Prix F1 has been extended for another 4 years in Singapore. We look forward to the continual provision of our services to the sick and injured during F1 events."*

## National Breastfeeding Week in August



The first week of August was the 25th anniversary of Breastfeeding Awareness Week which is aimed at encouraging breastfeeding and improving the health of babies around the world.

Through the St John Mother and Baby Programme, volunteers in Malawi, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe are visiting households to teach new mothers the importance of breastfeeding their newborn babies which gives them the best start in life and prevents malnutrition.

To find out more about the amazing work we do to save mothers and babies, visit: <https://www.stjohninternational.org/mothers-and-babies>

## Therapy dogs at Vancouver Airport

Last month, the Vancouver Airport launched its Less Airport Stress Initiative (LASI), aimed at helping travellers to manage their stress.

Seven "Ambassador Dogs" from St John Ambulance's Therapy Dog Programme took turns touring the halls before and after security, giving weary and woeful passengers a chance to cuddle and relax.

Unlike a service dog, passengers are encouraged to pet them because

they are specifically trained for interaction with others.

*"We know that passengers can be stressed when they're travelling," Reg Krake, Director of Customer Care for Vancouver Airport says.*

*"It's a great alternative option... having dogs in the terminal. They're trained as assistance dogs, so they can actually reduce (passenger's) stress, relax, and actually have a smile or a laugh before they head on their journey."*



## Wishing Smiley, a therapy dog a happy retirement



On behalf of the St John family, we wish Smiley, one of St John Ambulance Canada's therapy dogs a happy retirement.

Smiley was born without eyes and has overcome his disability by helping to bring joy and comfort to others. He has gained worldwide recognition, and was awarded Citizen of the Year in Stouffville for his work in the community.

## Teaching first aid to primary school teachers in Fiji



In August, 20 primary school teachers completed a three days first aid training programme delivered by St John Association of Fiji and received certificates.

Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services Alex O'Connor said that in the past six years, the St John Association has managed to train close to 10,000 students in its school cadet programme in primary and secondary schools in Fiji.

Mr O'Connor said, *"Teachers will be expected to teach, practise and implement in real life situations what they have learnt in their respective schools, communities and in their individual homes."*

*"The knowledge and skills that the teachers have learnt in the past three days will allow them to provide the basic lifesaving skills and provide assistance as first responders in cases of an emergency, which can save lives."*

Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bovororo said that the St John Association of Fiji had a goal in 2010 to have first aiders in every household.

*"We would like every school to have our programme and the only way we can teach students is if we teach the teachers and I hope you will be much more confident in teaching the children."*

*"The children take the knowledge home and teach their parents," she said.*

## Woman aged 93 years continues to volunteer for St John New Zealand



Margaret says, "What we are mostly doing is making people feel more relaxed, more comfortable."

"You've sort of got to keep your eyes open. You can tell if somebody wants to talk, or if somebody really needs to talk. It's a sort of an intuitive thing. Everybody has a different approach."

Margaret says she likes people, and she likes to talk, so she's well qualified.

Margaret Brown aged 93 years continues to give her time for nothing by volunteering as a St John Friends of the Emergency Department (FED) at the accident and emergency department of Tiramua Hospital to provide comfort and support to patients and their families.

She first started volunteering in the emergency department 12 years ago, when the St John-run FED programme started.

She said the main thing she did was reassuring people, holding their hand or bringing them a cup of tea if needed when they came into the department.

In May, she was awarded the Chairperson's Award at the South Canterbury Health Awards Gala evening for her volunteer work.

Currently, there are over 800 St John FED and Hospital Friends volunteers in New Zealand.

Watch Margaret personal story as a volunteer here: <http://ow.ly/311k30dl2cm>

## Celebrating 140 years of saving lives



In July, St John Ambulance in England celebrated 140 years of saving lives.

Established over 70 years before the NHS, the first aid charity founded in 1877, has helped millions of people through delivering and teaching the simple, yet important skill of first aid.

The first aid training sessions were set up particularly for workers in heavy industries across the country where there was a great need to learn life saving skills.

During the 19th century industrial workers rarely had access to medical help. Since accidents in the workplace were frequent, death or disability from injuries was common.

Over the next 140 years, St John Ambulance's charitable work rapidly expanded. As well as providing first aid in local communities, St John volunteers have also played their part in many major historical events, such as the world wars and more recently, the London Olympics.

## Latest volume of One St John Journal



The latest third volume of One St John journal is available now at <https://www.stjohninternational.org/one-st-john-historical-journal>

Featuring an opening piece on the importance of history from the Lord Prior, Sir Malcolm Ross.

## Our tribute to Mr Craig Troeberg, CEO of St John South Africa



With much sadness the Order announces that the Chief Executive Officer of the Priory for South Africa, Mr Craig Troeberg died on Friday 14 July 2017.

Craig Troeberg became the CEO of the Priory for South Africa in November 1997.

unable to afford the critical treatment of disease in South Africa.

Together with the Prior, Ian Crowther, St John South Africa gained recognition as a dynamic contributor to the field of social development and health.

On Tuesday 25 July, the Lord Prior, Sir Malcolm Ross, representing the Grand Prior, HRH the Duke of Gloucester, attended the funeral of Mr Troeberg.

The funeral, which took place in Johannesburg in the morning, was also attended by the Secretary General of the Order, Sir Paul Lambert, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the former Prior of the Priory for South Africa.

The great officers, the Secretary General and the staff at the International Office in London extend their sincere condolences to his family, and friends at this very sad time.

For 20 years he worked hard to ensure St John South Africa would be able to contribute significantly to the health of the economically disadvantaged that were

## New role for Chief Executive of St John Cymru Wales



The Chief Executive of St John Cymru Wales, Keith Dunn OBE, is retiring after 17 years in the role. Mr Dunn will stand down from his post at the end of the year when he will take up a new role as Secretary General of St John Cymru Wales.

Mr Dunn, from Newport, joined St John Cymru Wales at the age of seven and since then he has carried out a large range of significant roles within the organisation.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr Dunn said: *"It has been a real honour and privilege to have been Chief Executive for the last 17 years and to see how, working as a team, the 'One St John' concept has become reality.*

*"We are a charity that has much to offer, making a real difference to the day to day lives of the people of Wales through the hundreds of events we attend, the thousands of people we train and through our engagement with young people, who are the future of our organisation.*

*"I am very much looking forward to my new role as Secretary General of St John Cymru Wales."*

## Upcoming Event Dates

13 - 14 October - Installation of new Prior of Priory of Hong Kong, (Hong Kong)

20 - 21 October - USA Investiture (Washington, USA)

24 - 25 October - Steering Committee and OHAC Meeting (London)

3 - 4 November - Alliance Meeting (London)

If you have any stories you would like to be covered in the Link newsletter, or you would like information on any of the news featured in this edition, please email Chiao at: [chiao.kwan@orderofstjohn.org](mailto:chiao.kwan@orderofstjohn.org)

