



The Link



Sharing news from St John International

Hello!

Welcome to our spring newsletter.

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

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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.

Singapore cadets perform CPR on cardiac arrest victim



L-R: St John Singapore cadets - Aqasha, Eunice, Xinyun, and Syahiran.

It is probably a situation that many young people will not be able to handle - seeing a person lying unconscious on the ground. But thanks to their first aid training as cadets with St John Singapore, Eunice and Aqasha, both 15 years old were able to assist an

unconscious security guard by a school gate.

"I previously felt that first aid lessons were boring, but without these lessons I would not have been able to assist the victim," said Eunice, who also added that she finds fulfilment from helping others.

Aqasha concurred, adding, *"First Aid skills are very important; it is like magic, and can bring miracles to those who need help."*

Eunice and Aqasha, both of whom have previously completed the CPR and AED course, assisted their officer by setting up the Automated External Defibrillator, and also took over chest compressions when asked to do so.

Through this incident, the cadets realised the importance of first aid in their daily lives, and are proud that they can put theory into practice by helping someone outside of training hours.

St John Barbados celebrate their 75th anniversary



Executive Staff Officer, David Binks (centre) with cadets and volunteers.

Recently St John Barbados celebrated 75 years providing first aid, and first aid training on the island.

Part of the celebration included a church service at St George Parish Church, a Commissioner Parade and an Independence Day Parade.

Executive Staff Officer, Mr David Binks mentions:

"St John Barbados has had a distinguished history and I hope we will make the next couple of years even more memorable."

Two new grants for St John Mother and Baby Programme



We had fantastic news at the start of the new year as the St John Mother and Baby Programme running in sub Saharan Africa received two new grants.

After having already funded activities in Zimbabwe, The British Humane Association is now extending their support to the maternal and child health programme with another £8,000.

In addition, a grant of £15,000 from the Charles Hayward Foundation's

Overseas Programme will help to support activities in Uganda.

Sir Paul Lambert, Secretary General of The Order of St John welcomes both grants:

"There is a continuing need for health services for pregnant women, mothers and babies in the countries where the St John Mother and Baby Programme is running. Currently we are planning to assist local St John Associations increase their support to their communities by expanding into new project sites, but also adding crucial new activities."

Furthermore, St John will focus on adolescent pregnant girls, who belong to the most vulnerable groups in sub Saharan Africa and are often left behind without appropriate healthcare for themselves or their newborn babies.

Supporting St John Uganda with first aid training



In January, first aid trainers from St John Ambulance Kenya supported their neighbouring country Uganda by conducting first aid training sessions with trainers and volunteers, which will help to build a community of life savers.

The first aid training session also included a new segment on baby CPR where first aiders learned what to do in those crucial minutes when a baby has stopped breathing.

Happy Commonwealth Day!



This year Commonwealth Day was celebrated on 12 March ahead of the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting due to be held in London where leaders of 53 independent member countries will meet to address key global challenges.

Head of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II attended a multicultural, multi-faith service along with some members of the Royal Family at Westminster Abbey, to give her annual address.



This year, the focus was on solving important global challenges such as environmental sustainability and promoting fairness and equality.

As part of the Commonwealth Day celebration, The Order of St John Grand Prior, HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester visited St John in Malawi to see their projects to improve health of the communities, including the Mother and Baby Programme.

Community transport service launched in Western Australia



L-R: Jill Grant (Patient), Brian Ridley (Volunteer), Tony Ahern (SJA Western Australia CEO), Alan Clyne (General Manager of Community Transport Services), and Mandurah Mayor Rhys Williams.

In January, St John Ambulance Western Australia launched a community transport service in Mandurah to meet the need for care appropriate and cost-effective services across the region.

Patient Transfer Service general manager Alan Clyne said: *"The service provides non-emergency sedan transport for residents and involves a pick up from their home, and travel to and from their medical appointments."*

"Our St John volunteers are able to provide not only transport, but also companionship to people for these medical appointments."

Peel Volunteer Resource Centre manager Vicki Pollard said: *"Transport is a big issue for many people in the Peel region, and the big drawcard that St John Ambulance's community transport service offers is a door-to-door service where the drivers pick up the passengers from their homes, take them to their medical appointment and return them home afterwards."*

New CEO at St John Ambulance Western Australia



St John Ambulance Western Australia has announced the appointment of Michelle Fyfe APM as its new CEO.

As part of the police force for 34 years, she is the first woman to be appointed Police Assistant Commissioner in charge of the State Crime Portfolio.

Michelle will join St John at the end of June where she will be the first woman to lead St John Ambulance in its 125 year history in Western Australia.

Peace for Sight Project in Jerusalem



Manar Salameh, the Genetic Lab Technician, and Dr Al Talbishi in the new Jerusalem Hospital Lab

St John Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG) new Research Laboratory was officially opened in its Jerusalem Hospital in March 2018. This will allow SJEHG to enter the next stages of its three-year genetic research project, Peace for Sight. The project has been primarily funded by the European Union's Peacebuilding Initiative and is in partnership with Johanniter and the Israeli Hadassah Medical Center.

Its aim is to conduct research into the management of inherited retinal diseases which are particularly prevalent in Palestine. So far over 420 individuals across Palestine have been recruited into the project.

Dr Al Talbishi, the lead researcher for the project, has enjoyed a great year, including becoming the first Palestinian to talk at the Israeli Society of Vision and Eye Research Conference and the first Palestinian to join European Retinal Disease Consortium. This reflects the wider aim of the project encourage collaboration between the medical community globally.

Dr Al Talbishi said: *"I'm so pleased to be working on this project which finally allows us to offer some hope to those with genetic conditions in Palestine. Whilst we have been able to rely on Hadassah's facilities until now it is exciting to be able to have our own lab which will allow us to more conveniently work with our target population."*

St John Australia Chancellor Professor Mark Compton promoted to Bailiff Grand Cross



L-R: Mr Patrick Burgess OBE DL, Professor Mark Compton AM GCStJ, and HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO.

On 1 February, Professor Mark Compton, Chancellor of St John Ambulance Australia, was invested by the Grand Prior, HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester at Kensington Palace, London.

"I am honoured and humbled by my appointment to Bailiff Grand Cross. It came as a great surprise. I've been

so proud to be a member of St John for almost 45 years.

"Voluntary service is so important to the strong fabric of the Australian community and it is something that is in my blood, with 4 generations of family being St John members. I firmly believe that first aid is one of the most valuable life skills that can be taught," said Professor Compton.

Previously Professor Compton was awarded the Centenary Medal of the Commonwealth of Australia for services to the community. He was appointed a Knight in the Order of St John in 2004, and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in January 2010 for services to health, hospitals, medical research and St John Ambulance.

Recognition of Professor Compton's promotion will be held at Government House, Canberra, in May 2018.

St John Eye Hospital Group's new CEOs

Ahmad Ma'ali and Peter Khoury have been appointed the new Joint CEOs of St John Eye Hospital, officially beginning their role on 11 October 2017.



Ahmad (*left in photo*) was formerly a Nursing Director at St John Eye Hospital and is responsible for all clinical activities and patient care. Peter (*right in photo*) has been promoted from his former role as Financial Controller, and is responsible for the financial and administrative affairs at the Hospital.

"We were both honoured to be appointed to our new roles. Of course neither of us are strangers to the Hospital having served more than 35 years between us and therefore St John's mission is embedded in our thoughts and practices."

Welcoming our new Head of Chancery

Steven Wilson joins the International Office as the Head of Chancery.



He is a retired Royal Air Force group captain and while he flew fighter jets as a navigator his last posting was as a defence diplomat in the British Embassy, Beijing.

Steven is looking forward to his new role and working with all the Pories and Associations in keeping the Order of Chivalry relevant, and up to date in the modern age.

Upcoming Event Dates

- 14 - 15 April - Committee on Orders of St John (Rome)
- 23 - 26 May - Grand Council Meeting (Williamsburg, USA)
- 26 May - Executive Committee Meeting and Order Honours and Awards Committee Meeting (Washington, USA)
- 28 - 30 May - Caribbean Regional Meeting (Barbados)

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

