



SA Cadets have 'The Right Stuff' in Hong Kong!



TEAM SA have done St John – South Africa proud, skipping away from the Hong Kong International Cadet Competition 2016 (HKICC16) with places in the top three of both the first aid and home care individual and paired sections! Team members, Emily MacGregor, Gaelyn Arlow, Erin Pheiffer and Jessica van den Barselaar gave it their all, achieving top results in the following categories:

- **Paired Home Nursing** – 1st Place (Erin Pheiffer & Jessica van Den Barselaar)
- **Individual Home Nursing** – 2nd Place (Erin Pheiffer)
- **Paired First Aid** – Joint 3rd Place with Wales (Gaelyn Arlow & Emily MacGregor)

What is just as impressive is that after winning our local Cadet Competition in June 2015, this team from Bedfordview EMS had only six months to prepare. Not only did they have to study for their school exams, but they also had to study the first aid syllabus followed in Hong Kong AND had to raise sufficient funds to cover



Team SA doing us proud.



their flights, meals and spending money! They were joined on this trip of a life time by Stuart Waetzel (Chief Commissioner) Ricky Kleinhans (Contingent Manager), Dianne Silva (Team Manager), Megan Kocovaos (Team Trainer) and Fahwaaz Damonse (Grand Prior Cadet 2015). Sadly, Bedfordview EMS team mate, Penelope Dodge was excluded from participating in the competition side

of events as she had recently turned eighteen but she was still eligible to attend and join in all the festivities and fun.

St John – Hong Kong hosted Cadets from 11 countries over a two week period at the Po Leung Kuk Pak Tam Holiday Camp treating the youngsters to the very best in hospitality. Teams experienced the exhilarating New Year Fireworks Display in Victoria Harbour, a visit to Disney Land Hong Kong, a ride on the Ngong Ping 360 cableway through 5km's of breath-taking scenery, as well as lots of local cuisine and culture. The young visitors also had the opportunity to visit local schools and facilities for the aged to see first-hand the community work provided by their counterparts.



The SA contingent proudly display their Cantonese names.

Pretty in Pink

In the spirit of Breast Cancer Awareness month, the St John Volunteer Brigade in Johannesburg held a 'Pink Tea' at Priory in Westcliff. Ladies were taught how to perform a monthly breast self-examination and that early detection is key to a positive, healthier future. Marcelle Silva of 'The Corsetiere' showed off super soft, very real feeling breast prosthesis paired with beautiful lingerie and swimwear. Guests were treated to all things pink, with Methode Cap Classique Rosé Brut from Krone, sparkling sweet Rosé from 4th Street, flowers from Auckland Park Florists and delicious cupcakes, meringues and fresh fruit juices donated in memory of a mother and grandmother, Venie Clark.

An enjoyable afternoon was had by all - especially guests Mary Kalombo (Logistics Clerk - Johannesburg Centre) and Nomsa Mkhonza (Priory Receptionist) who each received spot prizes for being 'Prettiest in Pink'!

If you live in Gauteng and would like to attend the next Breast Cancer Awareness event, contact Moira de Swardt at the Johannesburg Centre on 011 403 4227.



Delighted winners, Nomsa (top) and Mary.

Glenshiel Christmas Fair 2015

A very successful 'Glenshiel Christmas Fair' took place in the beautiful gardens and main house during the last week of October, raising almost R500 000. The money raised is being used to train 40 learners in the new St John Further Education and Training Certificate: Community Health Work NQF Level 4'. This fundraising event has become a firm favourite with both local shoppers and national exhibitors with well over 200 applications received from potential stall holders. Sadly, we can only accommodate 80 of them!



food stalls which sold everything from delicious olives and olive oil, hand-made sweets, cheese, wine, cakes, Turkish cordials, Christmas puddings and the most heavenly Christmas Cakes.

The Highveld weather played along to the grateful thanks of the organising committee, stall holders and of course shoppers.

The four day event kicked off with the much anticipated Preview Evening where invited guests were encouraged to shop leisurely whilst enjoying delicious snacks and a glass of wine. The market opened to the general public bright and early the following day. Items on offer included jewellery, linen, shoes, the latest in kitchen gadgets, clothing, toys, plants, crockery and beautiful belts and bags. Delicious morsels were available at the

An event of this nature would not happen without many pairs of willing hands and the volunteer ladies of the St John Functions Committee and their 'co-opted' friends did a sterling job. In addition to this, members of the Priory Staff rolled up their sleeves to man the pay points, sell Christmas Crackers, act as porters and of course double up as the 'clean-up crew'.

Not resting on their laurels, the ladies of the Functions Committee have already begun preparations for the next one in just ten months' time!

Adult Competition Results

The first week of October saw volunteer members of the St John Volunteer Brigade travelling to KZN to compete in the annual first aid and home care competitions. Teams were welcomed to a hot and humid Durban by their counterparts who were excitedly waiting for months of planning to come to fruition. Each team gave of their best. Hearty congratulations go to all the teams and especially to the organisers and their many willing helpers. Here are the results:

FIRST AID

Theory

- Winner: Ms Pamela Zuma, Eastern Region, KZN
 2nd Place: Ms Carmo-Lee Jantjies, Central Division, CT
 3rd Place: Ms Lulama Orlam, Port Elizabeth Combined Division, PE
 (Joint Winners) Ms Sandy Williams, Central Division, CT

Individual

- Winner: Ms Shevonne Kroucamp, Central Division, CT
 2nd Place: Mr Suhail Khan, Central Division, CT
 3rd Place: Ms Pamela Zuma, Eastern Region, KZN

Team

- Winner: Central Division, Cape Town
 2nd Place: Port Elizabeth Combined Division, PE
 3rd Place: Eastern Region, KZN

HOME BASED CARE

Theory

- Winner: Ms Julie Baker, Eastern Region, KZN
 2nd Place: Ms Lezani September, Wellington Division, SW
 3rd Place: Ms Christina Fortuin, Wellington Division, SW

Individual

- Winner: Ms Haley April, Wellington Division, SW
 2nd Place: Ms Christina Fortuin, Wellington Division, SW
 3rd Place: Ms Julie Baker, Eastern Region, KZN

Team

- Winner: Wellington Division, Somerset West
 2nd Place: Eastern Region, KZN
 3rd Place: Central Region, Bloemfontein

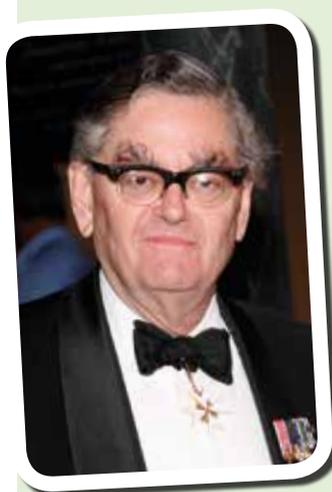


Bloemfontein Mall Display

When members of the St John volunteer Brigade in Bloemfontein decided to celebrate International First Aid Day (12 September) by teaching CPR to local shoppers at a local mall, little did they know that it would become a monthly event. Management at the North Ridge Mall were so impressed by their display and rapport with shoppers, that they asked them to come back once a month! Well done promoting the work of St John in your area – you are all truly wonderful ambassadors for St John.

Death of Professor Anthony Mellows

It is with deep regret we hear from London that Professor Anthony Mellows OBE TD, former Lord Prior 2008-2014 died on Sunday 10 January after a very short spell in hospital.



His learned, generous and unstinting contribution to the Most Venerable Order and to the fraternity of all the Johannine Orders, has been immense. He was also heavily involved in helping and organising a number of other charities. We at Priory extend our sincere condolences to his wife Elizabeth and all members of his family at this sad time.

Stella Londt staff and residents reach out

Whilst stopping for a cup of tea at a small café on a trip through De Aar, Tom Horne, Director of Stella Londt Retirement Centre came across the Gentlecare Centre. The Centre, begun by Ivonne Gentle in 2004, cares for residents with severe disabilities, injuries or illnesses. All the residents had one thing in common – they had nowhere else to go to receive the care they needed. Impressed by the work carried out by Ivonne and her band of dedicated helpers, Tom went back to his committee to see how Stella Londt residents and staff could assist. It wasn't long before they had collected bags of clothing, non-perishable foods, blankets and bedding. Tom and his team set about collecting walkers and wheelchairs (which were expertly refurbished) from residents as well as other mobility aids. Along with a one ton donation of food and toiletries (donated by a local businessman) everything was packed up and the 600km road trip back to the Gentlecare Centre was underway.



Time to offload

Residents were overjoyed with all the items – especially the mobility aids which allowed residents a lot more freedom of movement around the Centre. A number of excess wheelchairs were donated to a local clinic which was overjoyed at being able to assist others in the community.



Staff from Stella Londt with the recipients of a walker and wheelchair

Marlene Reid, Bookkeeper at Stella Londt said, "The joy, gratitude, bravery and love that we experienced during the weekend was overwhelming! Thank you to everyone who took part, you have helped many people and touched their lives with your generosity."



Tom and Caroline (Matron) making new friends at Gentlecare

Prior receives 'The Order of the Companions of Honour' from Prince Harry



The Prior of the Order of St John in South Africa, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, was recently appointed an honorary member of The Order of the Companions of Honour by our Sovereign Head of the Order, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the recommendation of the British Government. Her grandson, Prince Harry, presented our Prior with his insignia at his offices in Cape Town at the end of last year.

The award is presented to recipients in recognition of their exceptional and sustained services of national importance in the fields of medicine, science, the arts, and government. The Order presently comprises 66 members. Other recipients of this honour include Prof. Stephen Hawking, Sir David Attenborough and David Hockney.

Congratulations Prior!

International World Sight Day



Imagine waking up tomorrow blind. Never to see the smiling faces of loved ones again. Never to enjoy the beautiful natural sights surrounding us which we take for granted every day! No more visual media like Facebook or YouTube? No, is it too scary to contemplate? Did you know that the World Health Organisation estimates that approximately 80% of blindness is avoidable, preventable, and in many instances could have been easily treated? That's 8 out of 10 cases!

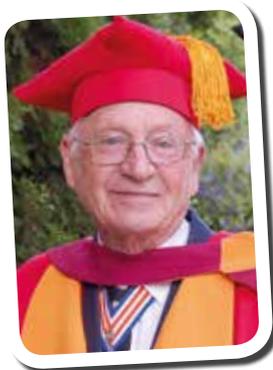
World Sight Day was celebrated by St John and the SA National Council for the Blind on 8 October 2015 at a candlelight vigil held in Pretoria. As a valued partner of the SANCB, Abdul R Ali Jaffer, Training Manager at St John Johannesburg, represented St John South Africa at this event, giving guests an overview of the vital work that St John has performed, both past and present in the fight against preventable blindness.

As part of the ceremony, guests were asked to reconfirm their commitment to the elimination of preventable



blindness by the year 2020, to remember those still waiting patiently for eye care services to reach them, and to continue leading the way in creating a world in which no one is needlessly blind.

Congratulations Fred!



Priory congratulates Frederick (Fred) Brownell OMSS, SM and bar, MMM, JCD, KStJ, on recently graduating with a D Phil in History from the University of Pretoria thus adding yet another post-nominal to his already impressively lengthy list.

Until recently Fred was The Order's Heraldic Advisor and a mine of information on matters heraldic. In addition to his unparalleled knowledge and wisdom on many

other matter of interest to the Order, Fred played a major role in the history of South Africa as the designer of South Africa's new national flag.

Sadly we bid farewell

Since the September 2015 edition of *The Call*, Priory has been advised that the following members of the St John Family have passed away.

Mrs Cillie Steytler DStJ

Mr Quintin Halford MStJ

If you are aware of any member of St John who has recently passed away, please notify Jean Gair in the Order office on 011 646 5520 or send an email to jean.gair@stjohn.org.za.

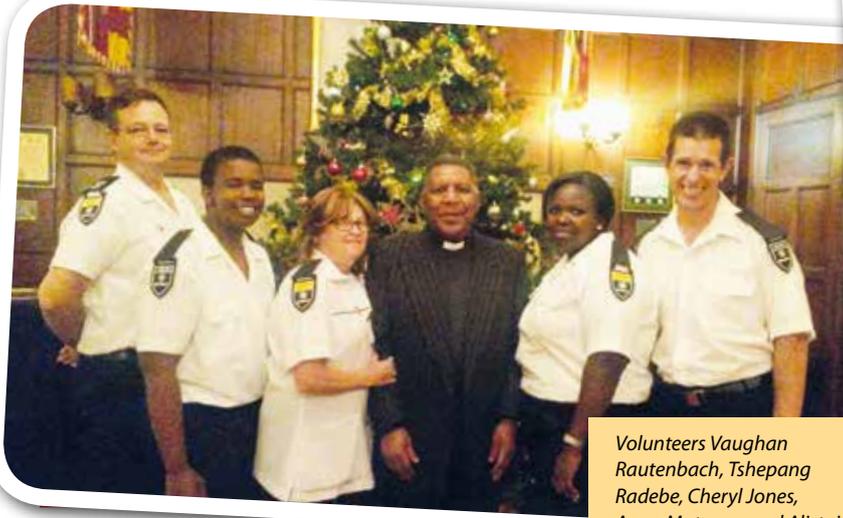
Carols at Glenshiel

Westcliff came alive with the melodic sounds of Christmas at the start of December when the annual 'Carols at Glenshiel' took place at Priory.

As usual, Nic Nicolaidis and Friends captivated the audience young and old with seasonal favourites, 'Angelus as Virginem', 'O' Holy Night and everyone's absolute favourite, 'Away in a Manger' which was beautifully sung by all our young visitors.



Opening and Closing Prayers were led by Priory Chaplain, Fr Luke Pato. Members of the St John Vereeniging Brigade Division were on duty just in case. (They sing pretty well too!)



Volunteers Vaughan Rautenbach, Tshepang Radebe, Cheryl Jones, Anna Motaung and Alistair Murdoch pose with Fr Luke.

PE's Double Celebration

The Stella Londt Retirement Centre was established in Port Elizabeth in 1947 as a convalescence home for soldiers suffering from TB on their return from WW2. When the property was no longer needed for this purpose it passed into the hands of the Order of St John and converted into a care centre for frail and elderly residents. In order to manage the high costs of well-trained nursing staff the Order built the first 13 cottages as part of a long term plan to accommodate many more independent residents, who would buy cottages on a Life Rights occupation basis and then, on the owners' deaths, be endowed to the Order.

On 11 September last year the Stella Londt Centre hosted a memorable cocktail party to celebrate not only the official opening and occupancy of the cottages 40 years ago in 1975, known as the St John Gardens, but also the establishment of the Port Elizabeth Centre known as the St John Ambulance Association, 90 years ago. Today it has a full time staff of four, three contract lecturers and an annual budget of R2 million.

The Dining Room was beautifully decked out in the colours of St John. Invited guests from the two centres mingled

with the current residents of the original 13 cottages and were officially welcomed by Alderman John Vieira, Past President of the PE Centre. A Prayer of Thanksgiving was offered followed by the Loyal Toasts, after which the guests enjoyed a feast of sumptuous snacks provided by the Centre's catering team.

A brief history of the PE Centres was delivered by Centre Manager Ronwynne Fourie, followed by reminiscences of the two Centres by Chairman Jenny Watson. The Centre now comfortably accommodates 170 residents, has a staff of 43 and an annual budget in excess of R8 million. A far cry from its humble beginnings 40 years ago. There was certainly much to celebrate.

Footnote: It is interesting to note that the name of the Centre, comes from Stella, daughter of the late industrialist William Edward Londt. She was tragically killed in a motor accident in 1933 in England. Devastated by her death and to perpetuate her memory the family later donated their property to be used as the convalescent home referred to above. The only condition the family had was that whatever their property was used for it must always bear the name of their daughter Stella Londt.

St John around the world...

STJ UK Flood Assistance

When flooding hit a large area of north-west England in December last year, volunteer members of St John UK were called upon to assist with the relief effort. Three St John 4x4's, one ambulance and nine transporters aided local emergency services with patient evacuations and transport to medical facilities and rest centres. Once at the rest centres, St John First Aid volunteers worked around the clock over a number of days ensuring that all first aid needs were attended to.

Kenya

Kenya's initiative in introducing the St John motorcycle ambulance project in areas without adequate infrastructure has recently been praised by First Lady Margaret

Kenyatta at Nairobi's 87th Annual Inspection Parade. The First Lady also praised the organisation for establishing no fewer than 18 rescue centres at notorious black spots across the country's roads to offer emergency medical care to accident victims.



Mother and Baby Project in Malawi and Zambia

Plans to improve access to clinical services in Zambia's urban townships of Chunga and also Malawi's peri-urban township of Mbayani are being implemented with the support of St John International. Included in this support programme are basic clinic refurbishments and easier travel for nurses and midwives. This is particularly good news for both pregnant mothers and those of new born babies.

St John Ambulance Western Australia

A Conference was recently held in order to encourage an awareness amongst staff and volunteers from around the state to connect with the broader St John community in the rest of Australia and also the many international operations within the Order.

Staff and volunteers have been sent on humanitarian missions to developing countries such as Vietnam where they worked with health and government officials to develop ambulance and first aid services and to Malaysia to work with the local St John organisation to assist in the development of ambulance services. Also three nursing positions at the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem are being funded by the organisation.

Singapore

Chancellor of The Order of St John, Mr Patrick Burgess at the Annual General Inspection and Presentation of Medals ceremony held in Nanyang last year said what an honour it was for him to be present in the country to mark officially the 130th year since the beginning of St John in Singapore.



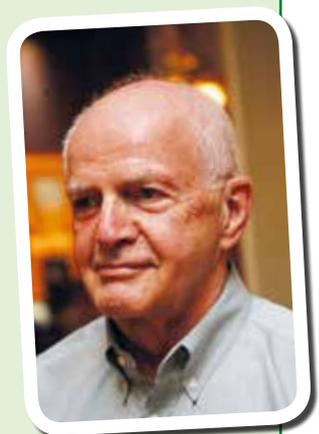
Since 2006 St John Singapore has been leading volunteer missions to provide humanitarian aid in their northerly neighbour Cambodia's provinces of Phnom Penh, Kampong Thom and Kampong Speu. They have built 20 wells, conducted health screenings, donated medical supplies to thousands of Cambodians and conducted first-aid and hygiene classes and vocational training for rural villagers.

Such an outreach will also continue to strengthen economic ties between the two countries

What a wonderful testimony to the outworking of the mission of St John to improve the health and well-being of people around the world.

Death of Former Lord Prior, Lt Col Eric Barry

Former Lord Prior (2002-2008), Lt Col Eric Barry passed away towards the end of last year. He joined the St John Family in 1968 in Montreal, Canada. Through his commitment to St John Canada and the worldwide family of St John, he was appointed the first non-British Lord Prior in our history. His business career concentrated on NPO's but he was also considered an expert in international trade negotiations and was appointed advisor to the Canadian Government.



Many members of St John – South Africa had opportunity to meet with him during the hosting of Grand Council held in Cape Town 2007.

What's in a name?

It is always interesting to know how magazines and newsletters acquire titles with which we become familiar. In the case of our own Newsletter *The Call* we are fortunate to have a story behind the choice of title.

In the shadow of Edinburgh Castle, the historic fortress dominating this Scottish city's sky line, stands the impressive Scottish-American War Memorial, an impressive life-sized bronze sculpture of a kilted infantryman looking towards Castle Rock. Behind the figure is a frieze depicting queues of men of many different professions answering the call to duty as they follow a kilted pipe band.



The Scottish-American War Memorial

Beneath this magnificent sculpture is a simple plaque inscribed:

THE CALL 1914

A tribute, from men and women of Scottish blood, and sympathies from the United States of America to Scotland.

Along the bottom of the frieze are inscribed the lines from a poem by the late EA Macintosh who died in action in 1917 which he entitled MY CREED

*If it be life that awaits,
I shall live forever
unconquered; If death,
I shall die at last strong
in pride and free.*

It was the rapt and eager expression on the sculptured face of the infantryman that caught the eye and heart of Lady Superintendent-Chief, Mrs AJ Walton whilst on a visit to Scotland. On her return to South Africa she spoke to Lt. Colonel Smyth of the deep impression made on her by the memorial and its inscriptions and left it to him to make use of for The Order when an opportunity arose.

During World War 2 the Witwatersrand and Southern Transvaal District published a journal and entitled it: *Order of St John - The Call*. An appeal was launched for war funds and the inscription quoted above was used on its cover. The picture on the journal was that of young Voluntary Aid Detachment lad involved in field nursing services whose expression bore a strong resemblance to the expression on the face of the young man on the memorial. When a new journal was embarked upon on behalf of Priory, the committee decided to avail itself of the popularity of this earlier journal and *The Call of St John* came into being.

The young lad depicted in the sculpture on the memorial was a 23 year old ex-Oxford Classics student of Canadian descent who was killed in action in 1917.

The figure and those behind it were sculptured between 1924 and 1927 by the Canadian sculptor Robert Tait Mackenzie who died in 1938 aged 71. It is recorded that he wished his heart to be buried somewhere in the monument, possibly because he considered the sculpture to be his finest work.

Admissions and Promotions to the Order

It gives Priory great pleasure to announce that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Sovereign Head of the Order, approved the following admissions to and promotions within our Order. The following names appeared in the London Gazette on 2 December 2015:

Promotion to Dame - Grade II

Jeanette Gesina Johanna Faurie

Promotion to Knight - Grade II

Craig Leslie Hartley
Ricardo Kleinhans

Promotion to Commander - Grade III

Dudleigh Eve Anderson
Gavin Melvin Jensen
Alexander Graham Randall
Eric Clive Wolhuter

Promotion to Officer - Grade IV

Moira de Swardt
Allan-Bryan Hattingh
Lieutenant Colonel Richard McQueen
Hendrika Petronella Marjan van der Slik
Carl David Wheeler

Admission as Officer - Grade IV

Bruce George Ronald Murray, 12th Duke of Atholl

Admission Member – Grade V

Marian Louis Barrowman
Margherita Jeanette Clemence
Dipuo Ellah Mavundla
Ndabauhle Sifiso Msane
Reverend Doctor Douglas John Torr
Janet Clare Moodie

