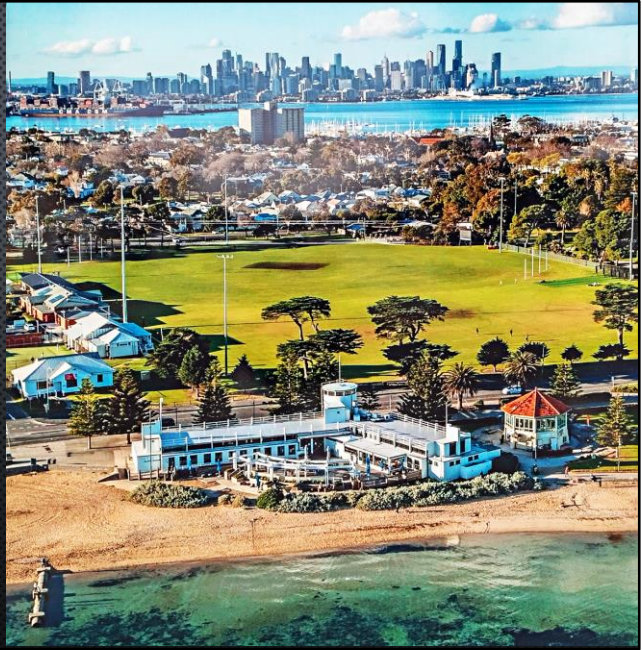


TOUR OF ST JOHN MUSEUM, VICTORIA

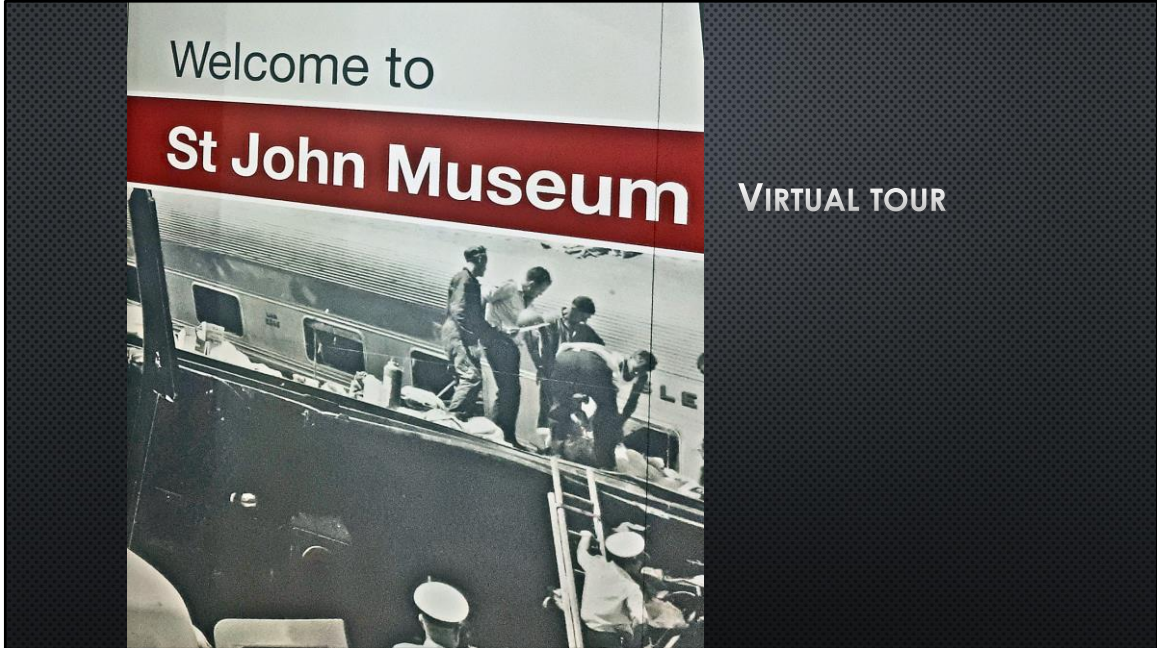


St John Museum in Victoria is open to the public, free of charge, on Thursdays and Sundays from 10am to 4pm.

MUSEUM AT CORNER OF PARK



The Museum is located on the Esplanade at Williamstown Beach. It is on the edge of a park at Garden Street. It is just across Hobson's Bay from the city of Melbourne.



Welcome to a virtual tour of the Museum.

***The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem
is a British Order of Chivalry recognised in Australian Honours.***

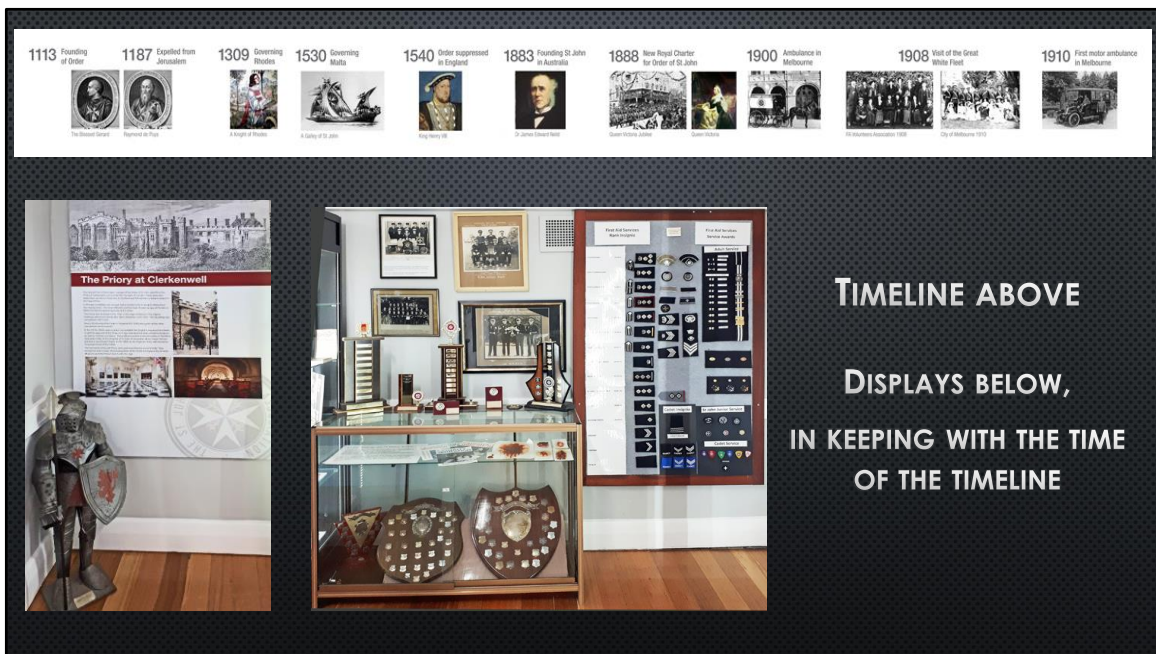
*St John Ambulance Australia (Victoria) is a corporate organisation
to carry out the Aims & Objectives of the Order of St John.*

THE TWO MAIN THEMES OF THE MUSEUM

"THE 900 YEAR HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF ST JOHN"

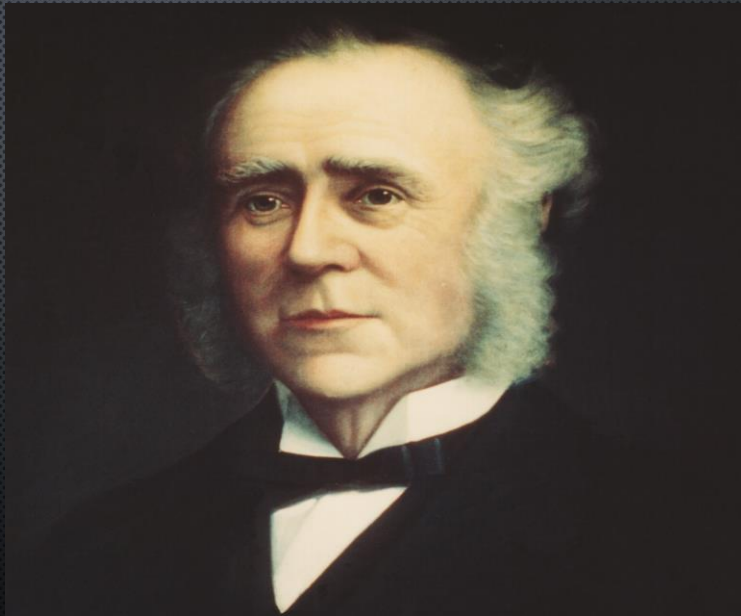
"THE 150 YEAR HISTORY OF ST JOHN AMBULANCE"

The Museum has two main themes: The 900-year history of the Order of St John, and the 150-year history of St John Ambulance Association, which is the corporate organization formed to carry out the aims & objectives of the Order in the British realm.



The 900-year history is indicated by a timeline around the upper wall space, with exhibits beneath the timeline illustrating aspects of that history.

DR JAMES EDWARD NEILD,
FOUNDER OF ST JOHN
IN AUSTRALIA



The 150-year history of St John in Victoria is largely shown in exhibits in the central area of the Museum. We will start our tour with this. Dr James Edward Neild is the founder of St John in Australia. His portrait hangs in the Museum. He was a prominent doctor in Melbourne who was well aware of the beginnings of the St John Ambulance Association in London and wanted to see First Aid training undertaken in Melbourne. He called a public meeting in 1883 to see if there was enough interest to start a local Branch. He was able to recruit enough doctors to teach the courses and was granted permission to start the Victorian Branch, the first in

Australia and one of the first in the world outside England.



As well as teaching First Aid, the new St John Council was soon involved in starting an ambulance service. This stretcher on wheels, known as an Ashford Litter, was one of the first ambulances in Melbourne. These were located in Police Stations around the city, to transport injured people to the Melbourne Hospital.

1900 Ambulance in
Melbourne



1910 First motor ambulance
in Melbourne



EARLY AMBULANCE SERVICE

1916 Founding of
Vic Civil Ambulance



Shortly after, St John provided a horse-drawn ambulance service run initially from Eastern Hill Fire Station alongside the horse-drawn fire engines. From 1904 they had their own stables and in 1908 bought the first motor ambulance. In 1914, nearing bankruptcy because of insufficient donations income, they started a commercial organization, Victorian Civil Ambulance Service, which charged fees to recover costs. The two organizations continued side by side until the second World War when the Government took over responsibility for the professional ambulance service.

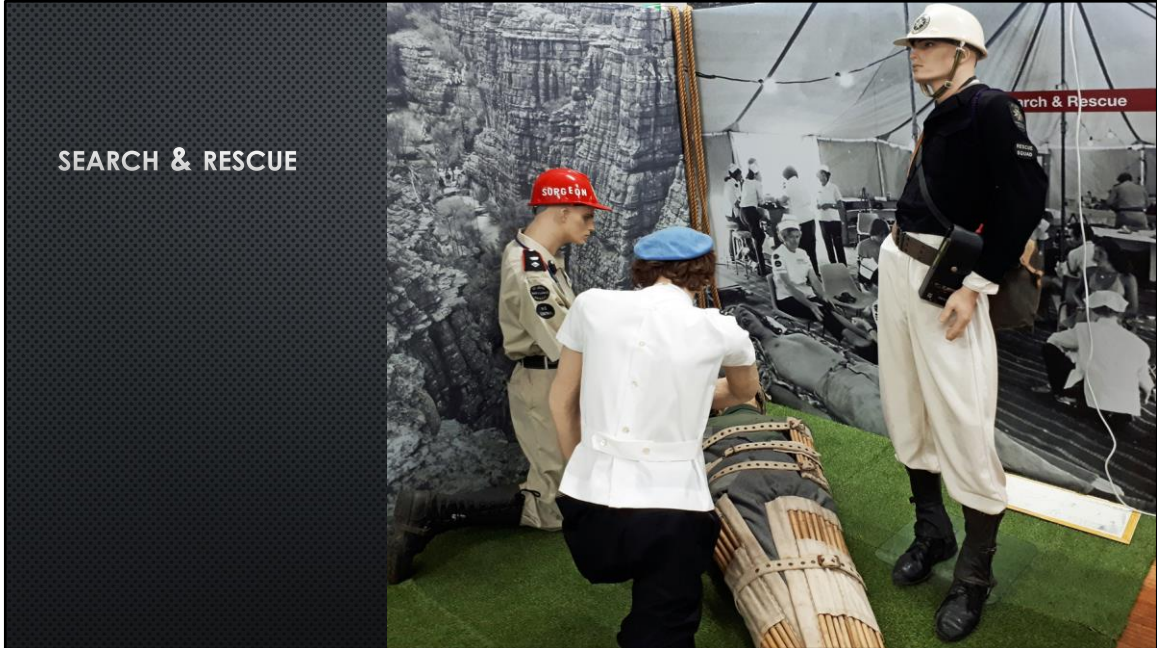


ST JOHN NON-EMERGENCY PATIENT TRANSPORT SERVICE

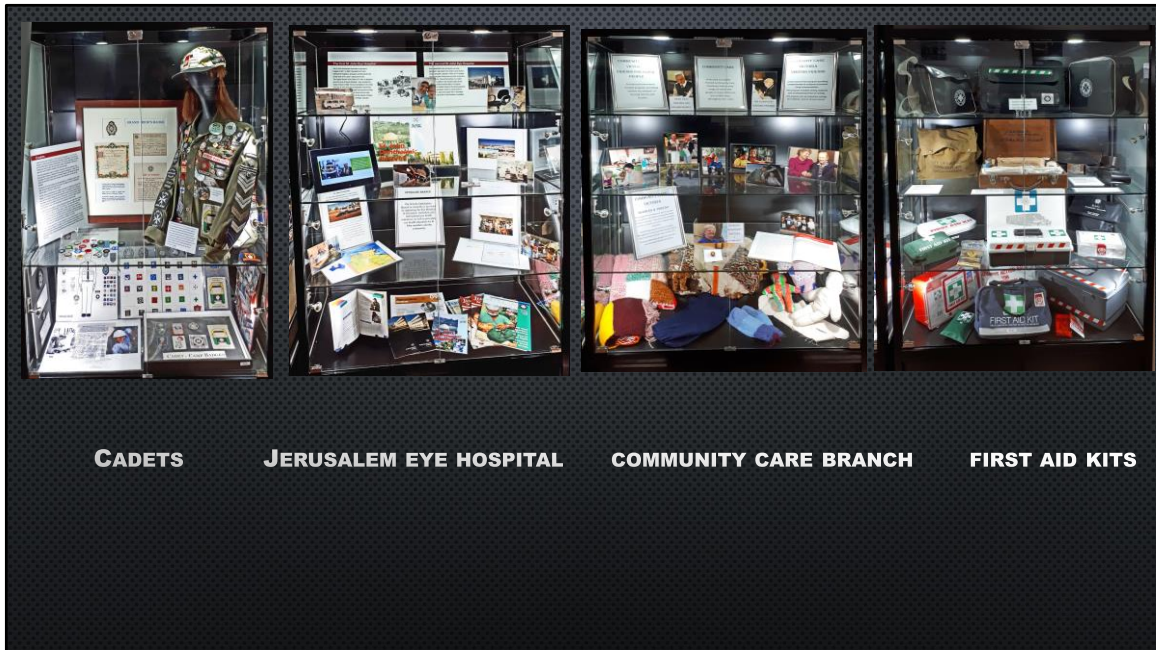
St John then had no role in ambulance transport for about fifty years until the government sub-contracted the non-emergency patient transport services. St John has now resumed an important ambulance transport role.



St John is best known to the public because of volunteer first aiders at public events. This exhibit highlights the central importance of resuscitation. Background graphics show the history of various methods of resuscitation. They also report world's best survival rate when immediate CPR is followed by rapid defibrillation and prompt transport to hospital. Our series at the MCG showed a two-thirds survival rate compared to about one third out in the street.



Another exhibit highlights the work of our Search & Rescue Units prior to 1975 when this role was taken over by State Emergency Service. One picture in the background shows training in the Grampian mountains and the other shows our field hospital at the Sunbury Pop Festival.



Individual showcases illustrate:

- First Aid kits, initially home-made, later part of the member uniform and nowadays manufactured and sold by St John for fund-raising;
- the work of the Community Care Branch;
- the work of the Ophthalmic Hospital Branch supporting a Christian hospital in a Jewish state providing care for Palestinian Muslim patients;
- the history of the cadet movement, the Grand prior awards and camp activities.



Other showcases illustrate the history of radio communications.



ST JOHN PUBLICATIONS

The history of St John publications from the time of this copy of Peter Shepherd's 1878 first edition of the little black book though to the latest editions of Australian First Aid, alongside many other St John publications.



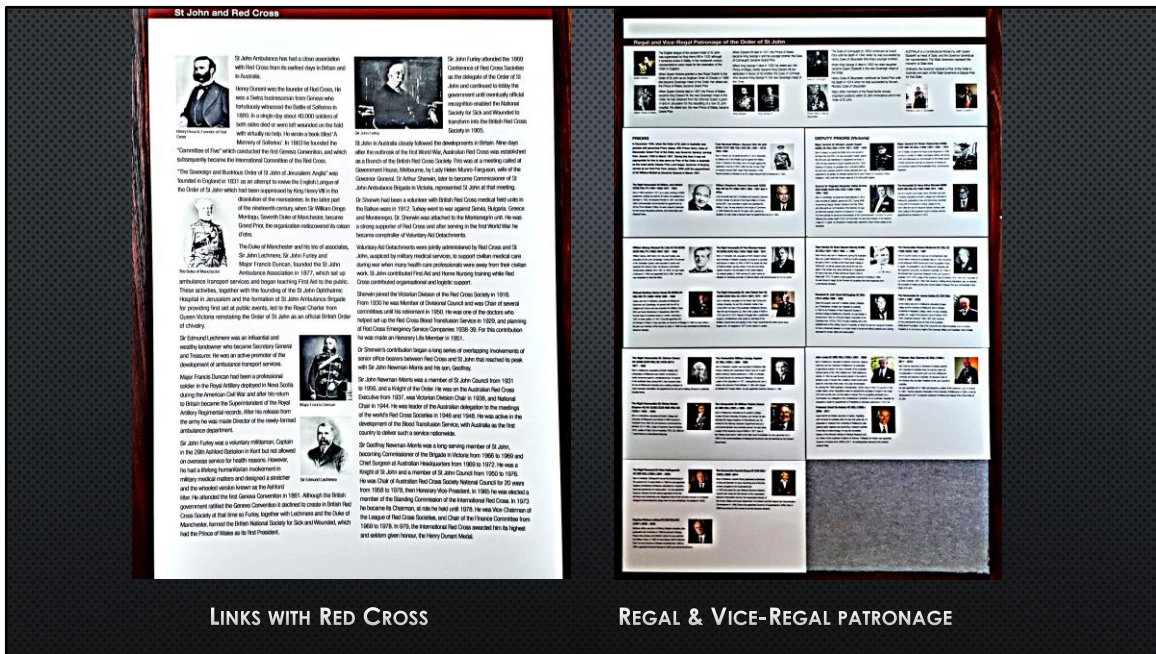
First Aid competitions and awards, also uniform insignia and medals.



Some examples of uniforms. From left to right: Robes of the Order, 1930s Motorcycle Division, 1940s cadet, 1950s member, 1900s nurse, 1940s Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse.



Commissioners



Our connections with Red Cross and of Regal and Vice-Regal patronage of St John.



Certificates Gallery

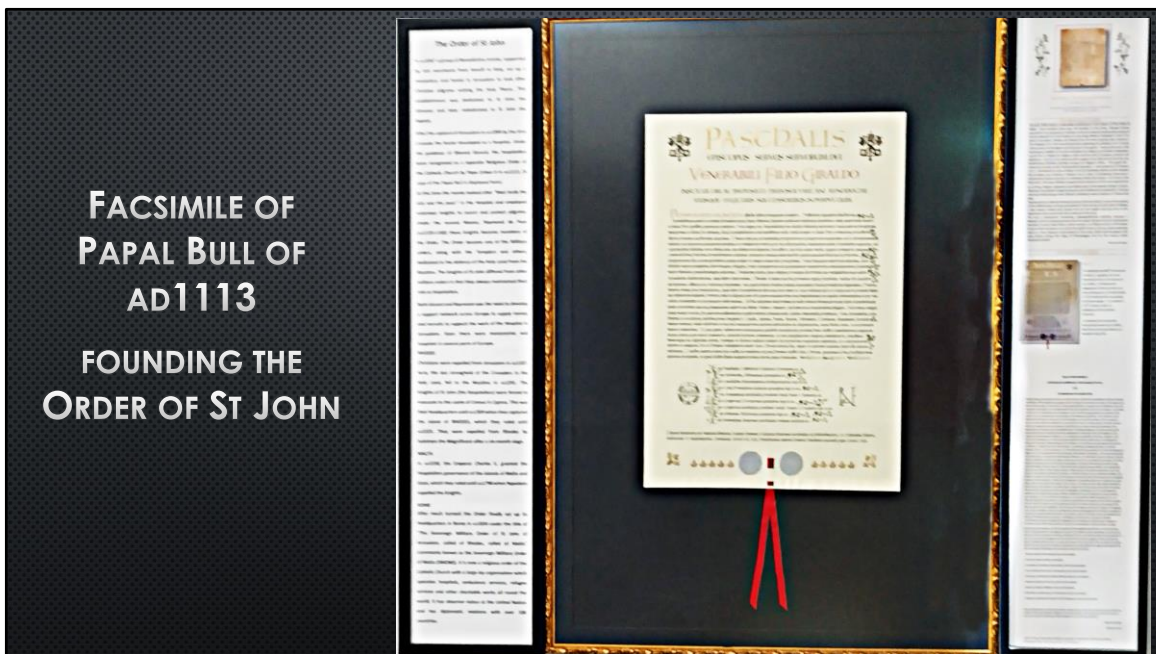


ST JOHN MEMORABILIA

Memorabilia : Neckties; postage stamps, spoons and keyrings; badges and lapel pins; glassware; commemorative wines.



The review of our 900-year history begins with the founding of the hospital by Benedictine monks and nuns to care for pilgrims to the Holy Land. When Muslims blocked access to pilgrims, this precipitated the Crusades. After the capture of Jerusalem, Pope Paschal II created the Order of St John as a separate Papal Order of Chivalry. From its initial hospitaller role, the Order also became a military Order as the Muslims resumed their fighting and pushed the Christians out of the Holy Land.



Our museum has this facsimile of the Papal Bull of AD1113 founding the Order. On its left is text describing the history of the founding. On its right is a translation of its Latin script. The original is in the Museum at Malta.



MODEL OF KRAK DE CHEVALIERS CASTLE

AND

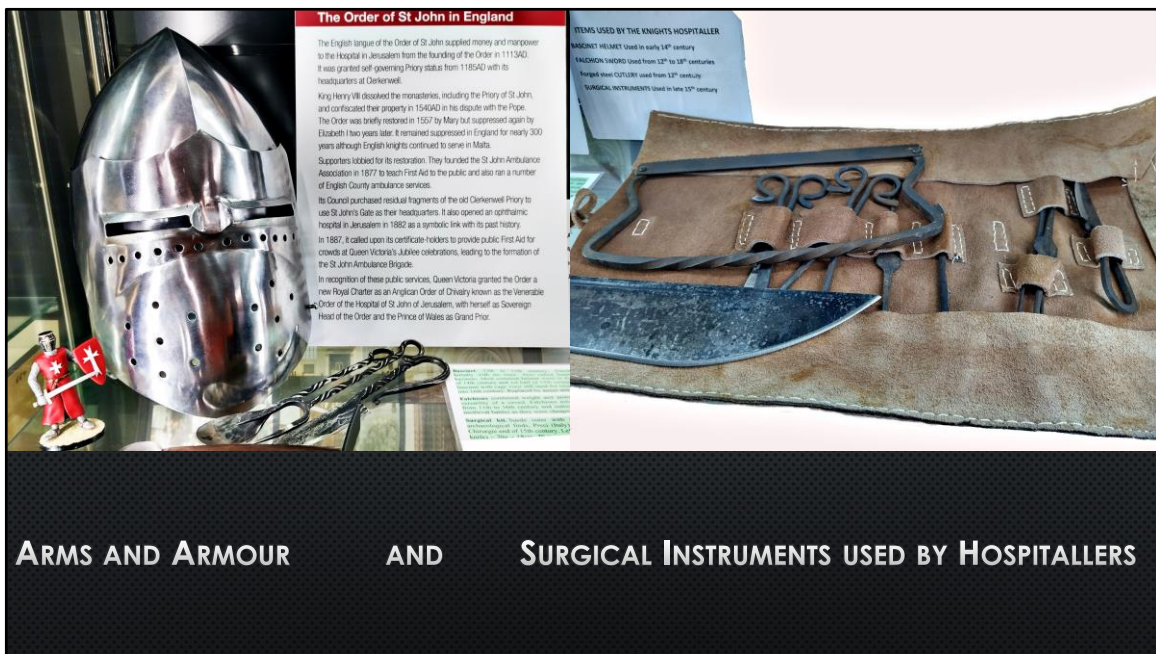
THE REAL CASTLE IN SYRIA

As the Christians retreated westward, they built Crusader castles like this one – Krak de Chevaliers – in Syria, which still exists today. We have a model on display.



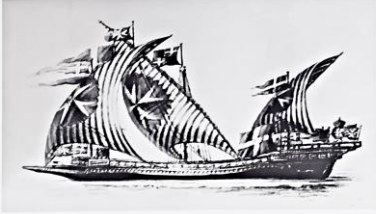
THE ORDER ISSUED ITS OWN COINS FROM ITS BEGINNINGS IN JERUSALEM ONWARDS

Retreating further westward, the Order occupied Rhodes and later was granted governance of Malta. We have a few exhibits showing Coats of Arms, coinage.



We also have an example of armour, weapons and surgical instruments used by Hospitallers.

1522 Siege of
Rhodes



A Galley of St John

1565 Siege of
Malta

1571 Battle of
Lepanto



Battle of Lepanto

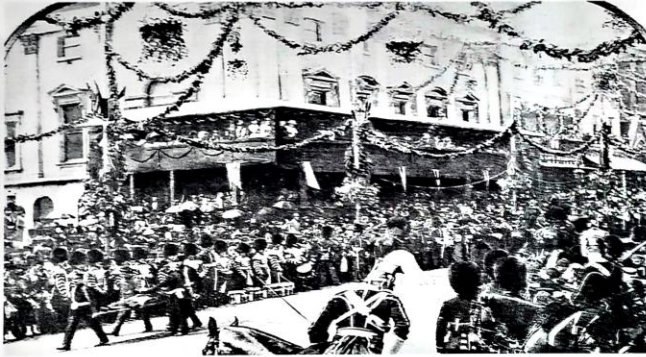
FORCED WESTWARD FROM RHODES TO MALTA, THEY RULED UNTIL AD1798

After withstanding the siege of Malta and defeating the Ottomans at the Battle of Lepanto, the galleys of the Order controlled the Mediterranean Sea, marking the dividing line between the Christian west and the Ottoman east, for the next couple of centuries.



Although the multinational Order continued in Malta, the Priory in England was confiscated by King Henry VIII during the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1643 when he suppressed the Roman Catholic Church. It remained suppressed for several hundred years.

1888 New Royal Charter for Order of St John



Queen Victoria Jubilee

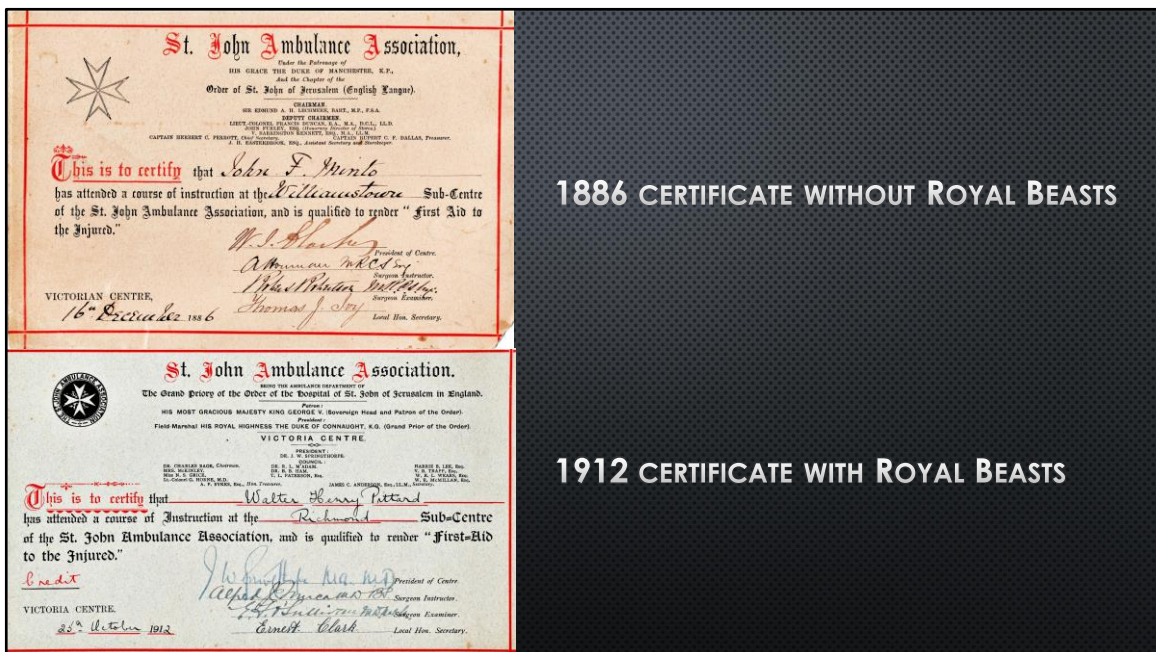


Queen Victoria

JUBILEE WAS THE FIRST MAJOR DUTY OF THE BRIGADE, PROMPTING THE NEW CHARTER

Gradually, as Catholicism resumed in England, the suppressed Order resumed work teaching First Aid, running hospices and County Ambulance Services. At Queen Victoria's jubilee there were great crowds celebrating the event and there would not have been any public first aid had it not been for St John. Certificate-holders volunteered, were put in uniform and provided public first aid. One picture shows volunteers at the jubilee. The other shows Queen Victoria as the first Sovereign Head of the Order when she granted it a new Royal Charter in 1888, as an Anglican Order of Chivalry in the British Realm. Australia, being a bunch of British

colonies at the time, followed the British pattern.



Here the ancient and modern histories start to overlap. As St John had started in Melbourne in 1883, five years before the Royal Charter, our collection has certificates issued under the logo of the old British Langue as well as under the new Anglican Order (which includes the Royal Beasts – Lion and Unicorn).

1908 Visit of the Great White Fleet



FA Volunteers Association 1908



City of Melbourne 1910



FIRST AID VOLUNTEERS ASSOC.

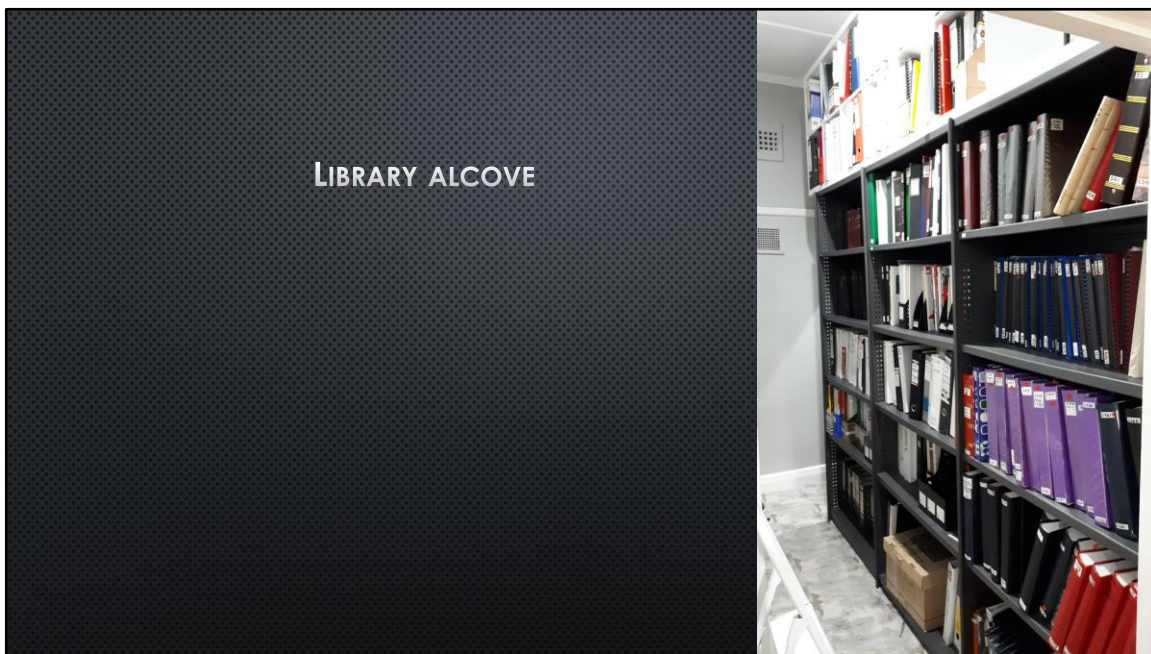
CITY OF MELBOURNE DIV.

GREAT WHITE FLEET

At Federation in 1901 the St John branches in each State remained separately answerable to St John's Gate in London. Glebe, in New South Wales, was the first Division of St John Ambulance Brigade formed in Australia in 1904. Victoria did not follow until 1908, when the new Federal government, meeting in Melbourne, invited President Theodore Roosevelt's Great White Fleet to make an official State Visit. Sixteen American battleships steamed into Port Phillip Bay and anchored at Port Melbourne. Three thousand of the American sailors marched the eight km to the city to

receive the civic reception. Public reaction was immense. Half the population of Melbourne turned out to watch the march.

St John in Melbourne did what had been done in London 20 years earlier. They called for volunteer certificate-holders to do public first aid. The First Aid Volunteers Association treated 500 casualties on Fleet March Day from the crowd of about half a million people spread out over the eight km of the march. This outstanding success led the St John Council to seek permission to form the City of Melbourne Division of St John Ambulance Brigade, the first in Victoria.



We have come full circle around the Museum. The remaining task is to say that the Museum is not only a display of St John history but also an important archive. We have over 16,000 photographs, with as many of them as possible cross-indexed for the names of people, dates and places. We have over 13,000 books and documents relating to St John, as well as over 5,000 items of clothing, equipment and memorabilia. This is a rich resource for presentations for the St John Ambulance Historical Society. We are also happy to host visits and teaching sessions for “Knowledge of the Order” courses. We welcome all contributions to our

work.