



The Great Priory of Queensland

The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple
and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of The Great Priory of Queensland and Grand Installation held at the Caloundra Masonic Centre, on Saturday 5th December 2020.

Attendance – As Per Register

The Great Prelate, R E Kt Stephen Murie KCT entered in procession and censed the Chapter Room at 1315 hours.

The Right Eminent Great Prior, R E Kt William Tupou KCM accompanied by Officers of the Malta Delegation entered the Chapter Room at 1320 hours.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, M E Kt Robert Bennett. GCT, accompanied by the Grand Master Elect R E Kt Jack Manasserian GCT and Officers of The Great Priory of Queensland, entered in procession at 1325 hours.

At 1330 hours the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, opened the Chapter of The Great Priory of Queensland.

Following the opening of The Great Priory of Queensland, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master was saluted under the direction of the Great Marshal. The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master suitably responded.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Masters Welcome:-

Brother Knights and Fratres, I welcome you all to this Annual Convocation of The Great Priory of Queensland and thank you for your attendance and interest
Crikey, where has the time gone?

It seems like yesterday that I was Installed as Grand Master and a wonderful journey began. It has been a privilege to serve this Order and its Preceptories for the last 3 + 3 years and to advance the Order so that all may enjoy the harmonious relationships we now enjoy. The Covid 19 experience has made it an anti-climax for me and this wonderful Order, but I know you will transfer your allegiance to the new Grand Master and his team. I will still visit around the state and continue the friendships which have been made.

I thank sincerely all the Great Officers, Preceptory Officers and Members who contribute so much for the healthy situation we find our Order in at this point. Your Grand Masters Council has achieved a record second to none in its re-organisation of our Statutes, handbooks, forms and general well governing of the Order.

Bro Knights and Fratres all, I salute you and say sincerely thank you.

Great Vice-Chancellor called the Roll and recorded apologies.

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| DUKE OF ALBANY PRECEPTORY No 1 | 5 |
| NORTH QUEENSLAND PRECEPTORY No 2 | 3 |
| BEAUCEANT PRECEPTORY No 3 | 3 |

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| CARPENTARIA PRECEPTORY No 4 | 0 |
| CAPRICORN PRECEPTORY No 5 | 2 |
| SIR WILLIAM WALLACE No 7 | 3 |
| MACKAY PRECEPTORY No 8 | 2 |
| WALTER DE CLIFTON PRECEPTORY No 9 | 2 |
| WIDE BAY PRECEPTORY No 10 | 3 |
| COOROORA PRECEPTORY No 13 | 12 |
| BURNETT PRECEPTORY No 14 | 3 |
| DE CONLAY PRECEPTORY No 15 | 0 |
| ALPHA PRECEPTORY No 17 | 6 |
| LEICHHARDT ENCAMPMENT No 18 | 1 |
| IPSWICH-MORETON No 19 | 0 |

Apologies - Apologies were tendered and recorded and taken as read, for unavoidable absence on behalf of:-

R E Kt Barry Willett, V E Kt's David Hayward, John Howie, and Andrew Grant, E Kt's Tim Powys, John Whitehorn, John Spooner, David Lauder, Glenn Farrell, Ven Kt Dennis Britten, Bro Kt's Wylie D Gibbons OSM DSA, Vincent Mantio and Phillip Morris GM's of Great Pories of New Zealand and Western Australia, Orders of Allied Masonic, Operatives UGLQA PGM Emanuel Anthony and M Ill Bro Greg Goding , Regional Commander AASR Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Election of One Member of Grand Master's Council.

The Great Vice-Chancellor advised that we have received three applications for the position of Elected Member on Grand Master's Council this term. We therefore will need to have a ballot to determine the Elected Member on Grand Master's Council.

The Grand Master advised that the nominees are as per the receipt of applications. Please rise as your name is called. E Kt Rory Cain, E Kt Mark Hewitt and E Kt Johannes De Kock. I appoint R E Kt N Morris, GCT, PGSen to be the chief scrutineer assisted by the other RGSP's.

BALLOT was then conducted resulting in E Kt Mark Hewitt being the Elected Member on Grand Master's Council for the Term 2020-2021.

Confirmation of Minutes The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master then addressed the Convocation stating Brother Knights and Fratres, as the Minutes of the last Annual Convocation of The Great Priory of Queensland held on Saturday 1st June 2019 having been circulated I will take them as read. If you think they are true and accurate record of that Convocation's proceedings and that I should sign them as such, I will ask you to vote in the usual manner. Those Minutes are confirmed.

Report of the Grand Master's Council and Approval of Recommendations 2019 –2020

Owing to time restraints copies of the report having been distributed,
Moved R E Vernon Flood KCT "That the report as distributed be taken as read". Seconded by R E Kt Stephen Murie KCT. Carried.

GREAT TREASURERS REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/3/2020 & AUDITORS REPORT

Moved by R E Kt Kirby Leeke KCT that the Financial Report for the Year ended 31/3/2020 as distributed be received. Seconded by R E Kt Vernon Flood KCT. Carried.

Auditors Report:

Moved by R E Kt Kirby Leeke KCT that the Financial Report and Auditors Report for the year ended 31/3/2020 as presented be Adopted. Seconded by R E Kt Vernon Flood KCT.

Election of Great Treasurer 2020 – 2021

The Great Vice-Chancellor, R E Kt Vernon Flood KCT advised that there has only been one recommendation for the position of Great Treasurer from Grand Masters Council that of R E Kt Kirby James Leeke KCT.

The Grand Master duly declared R E Kt Kirby Leeke KCT duly elected as Great Treasurer for the year 2020– 2021.

Appointment of Auditor 2020 - 2021

The Great Vice-Chancellor R E Kt Vernon Flood KCT advised that there was only one recommendation from Grand Masters Council that of John Aronis be appointed Auditor for 2020 – 2021,

The Grand Master duly declared John Aronis duly appointed as Auditor for the year 2020 – 2021.

Ballot R E Kt N Morris GCT moved the ballot papers be destroyed. Seconded by V E Kt Clyde Jackson. Carried.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master -

"Brother Knights and Fratres, we will now consider the Motion on Notice arising from the report of the Grand Master's Council.

Statute 21: Addition of a sentence to the end of Statute 21 'to allow postponement of meetings.

Moved by R E Kt Dr Donald Gifford GCT DSA that "In an emergency, such as epidemic or the venue becoming unavailable, the Annual Meeting may be postponed by a vote of Council". Seconded by R E Kt Vernon Flood KCT. Carried.

Alms amounting to \$119.35 was collected during singing of the Templar's Hymn.

GRAND INSTALLATION

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master then directs the Great Marshal to arrange for the admitting Ladies, Master Masons and Distinguished Guests, Affiliati and Delegations.

ADMISSION OF VISITORS

Distinguished Visitors:

The Ladies, Master Masons, Distinguished Guests and Affiliati were then admitted.

Delegations:

Representing the Grand Council of Knight Masons
The Deputy Grand Superintendent for Australia
Right Excellent Sir Knight Alan Coleman.

Representing the Supreme Council 33 Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Scotland. The Deputy for the Province of South Queensland (Metropolitan) Very Illustrious Brother Keith McElligott 33 Degree.

Representing the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Appendant Order of the Holy Sepulcher and of St John the Evangelist – The Grand Imperial Conclave for Queensland Most Illustrious Knight Dr Donald P Dezentje.

Representing the Order of the Secret Monitor, Grand Conclave for Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea. Most Worshipful Brother Raymond John Saunders.

Representing the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Queensland
The Most Excellent First Grand Principal Most Excellent Companion Colin Oswald Mander accompanied by his Deputy First Grand Principal Right Excellent Companion Ian Hodgson and his Grand Scribe Ezra Very Excellent Companion Mervyn Gray and his Grand Director Nigel Pittaway and a delegation.

Representing the Great Priory of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory R E Kt Don Beal GCT together with a delegation.

The Visitors and delegations were welcomed by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master and saluted with Grand Honours.

Very Illustrious Brother Keith McElligott 33 Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Scotland and the Deputy for the Province of South Queensland (Metropolitan), responded on behalf of the Visitors.

The Memorial Service:

The Great Vice-Chancellor announced the names of those Brother Knights who had entered on their last Crusade since the previous meeting of the Great Priory of Queensland.

Deceased Members 1-6-2019 to 5-12-2020

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| Bro Kt William Charles Webb | Beauceant |
| Bro Kt John Vaughan Mayfield | Carpentaria |
| Bro Kt William John Harmsworth | Capricorn |
| Bro Kt Ronald Robert Walker | Mackay |
| E Kt Hugh Dunlop Past Great Adie-de-Camp | Wide Bay |
| R E Kt Arnold Horne KCT Past Great Sub Prior of Malta | Wide Bay |

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| Bro Kt Brian Gray Lee | Cooroora |
| V E Kt Donald Douglas McBride Great Captain General | N Q Preceptory |
| Bro Kt Allan Carter | Cooroora |
| V E Kt L/Commander John Roger Cook Past Great 2nd Constable | Beauceant |
| M E Kt Walter Thomas Charlwood Knight Grand Cross of the Temple Past Grand Master (NSW & ACT and QLD) | Cooroora and Duke of Albany |
| R E Kt (Maj) Desmond John Soley KCT Past Gt Prior Malta | Capricorn |
| Affiliate Beatrice Horne | Wide Bay |

Bro Kts, Distinguished Guests and Visitors, Ladies & Gentleman would you please stand for a moment as we would like to Honour their memory.

Announcement of Past Great Rank:

During the year, Past Great Rank was awarded to R E Kt NJ Morris, GCT as Past Great Seneschal and E Kt R A Gill as P Gt Registrar.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master advised that he confers the following Knights to the rank as follows:-

**R E Kt Peter Frederick Dorey Day, KCT to Past Great Seneschal,
V E Kt John Davidson Smith to Past Great Marshal,
V Kt Ronald Frank Donnellan to Past Great Provost and
V E Fr Stanley Victor Whalen as Past Great Provost.**

Conferral of Affiliati:

The Grand Master then announced conferral of Affiliati status on Terence George Wilkinson and Janet Clarendon and then presented both with their Jewel and Certificate.

Presentation Marilyn Langusch Administration Award for Registrars/Secretaries

Presented to V E Kt Beau Sankey of North Queensland Preceptory.

Presentation of Donation to Guide Dogs Queensland:

The Grand Master “Three and a half years ago, I nominated my charity as GDQ. Why you may ask. Well, I could live without an arm, or a leg or two and still get by. But if I lost any sight, I could not and would not want to continue. GDQ provide the support for those partially or no sighted people to live in our communities.

It gives me great pleasure to present (with the support) of The Preceptories, Hand Heart Pocket and the Alms that we collect at every Great Priory meeting to give to GDQ a cheque for \$12,000 dollars. The pups and breeding programme will benefit immensely. Please accept this with our blessings.

Response by Rebecca McCormack of Guide Dogs Queensland.

Retiring Grand Master's Address:

Bro Knights, Fratres, Affiliati and Distinguished Visitors, Ladies and Gentlemen,
As we bring to a close Chapter 12 in the life of this Great Priory of Queensland it is timely to pause and reflect on the achievements over the last three years.

In my inaugural address, I spoke of the challenges that we faced and whether we would be or were ready to venture into the 21st Century within a rapidly changing world of technology, also the need to look at our aims, objectives and philosophy to meet these changes. We are a Christian, Masonic, and Military Order and from each we source our strength and resilience and believe me these attributes are sorely needed now. But forgive me if I reflect on the events of my three year term.

I began my Term by calling on each member to have a feeling of belonging to the Order; to be heard; to be valued. We have sought the view of members, considered those views and where appropriate to the Order, introduced them. We have communicated with notes being sent to all Preceptories of the major items from each Grand Master's Council meeting – we saw Grand Master's Council as echoing the members between Great Priory meetings. At your suggestion we undertook a major review of the Great Priory of Queensland Statutes and made sure that all members had the opportunity to study and comment on the document and believe me the members certainly did comment, so that when we took the Statutes to your Great Priory meeting it was carried overwhelmingly. At your suggestion we introduced a template for Preceptory By-Laws. We updated the duties booklets for Great Priory Officers. We are also presently updating the Manual of Ceremonial and Procedures and the Secretary/Registrars Handbook, which updates should be completed in the near future. Our Website continues to draw enquiries and we have been successful in turning a number of these enquiries into members and also in introducing others into Craft Lodges and in one case to the Royal Arch Order. On the education front we now have a number of papers on hand for any Preceptory that has no Degree work to undertake. All in all my Term has been one of refurbishment and fulfilling the objectives I set myself three years ago.

Now as we look forward, we have already moved into the world of technology. Pushed along by world events (COVID-19) we undertook our first Zoom meeting of Grand Master's Council in April as we were unable to meet personally together. I can see this becoming a regular event and spreading to more useful purposes for Preceptory Registrar/Secretaries, Marshals, RGSP's.

To the incoming team under the leadership of RE Kt Jack Manasserian, GCT you begin Chapter 13 of this Great Priory and I wish you all the success your endeavors deserve. I trust that the Great Officers you have selected will support and encourage you.

Thank-you. I have many. My wife Velma who has been very supportive and understanding, the Secretariat for their unity of purpose and GMC for their unbounded confidence in my proposals. I undertook to lead for the Individual Member and this has been a resounding success. You have been so very supportive of my role. I undertook to visit each Preceptory, to listen to all members, to be a Servant/Leader. I thank you for your support and I bid you well for the future in this most marvelous Order. Enjoy yourselves and go Onwards and Upwards".

Announcement of Election of Grand Master - R E Kt Vernon Flood KCT Great Vice-Chancellor: - advised "Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, there has only been one nomination for the office of Grand Master of this Great Priory for the year 2020-2021, that of Right Eminent Knight Jack Manasserian Knight Grand Cross of the Temple.

Announcement by The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master: -

Brother Knights and Fratres, in accordance with Article 51 of the Statutes, I therefore declare that Right Eminent Knight Jack Manasserian, Knight Grand Cross of the Temple, High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal duly elected as Grand Master of this Great Priory for the year 2020-2021

The Grand Master elect was then escorted from the Chapter Room, divested of his Knight Templar Regalia as appropriate.

Admission of Grand Master elect:

The Great Marshal then announced admission of the Grand Master elect. An escort was formed and conducted the Grand Master elect back into the Chapter Room through an Arch of Steel to the tune of "Praise my Soul the King of Heaven".

The Grand Master elect was Obligated, Invested and Enthroned.

The Grand Master's Banner was then unfurled by the Great Marshal.

The Great Prelate then pronounced The Benediction.

The Great Herald in the company of the Great Marshal then made the Proclamation.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master Most Eminent Knight Jack Manasserian GCT was then saluted with 11. The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master suitably responded.

The Grand Master then presented to M E Kt Bennett GCT PGM with the PGM's chain and black Cross of Salem.

Investiture of Knight Commander of the Temple:

The GM then requested that R E VG Flood, KCT and R E Kt Kirby Leeke KCT to present V E Kt Edward Ruska who was invested as a KCT, fealty tendered and seated

The GM then requested R E VG Flood, KCT and R E Kt Kirby Leeke KCT to present V E Kt Stephen Murie who was invested as a KCT, fealty tendered and seated

The GM then requested R E VG Flood, KCT and R E Kt Kirby Leeke KCT to present V E Kt Lester Dunstan who was invested as a KCT, fealty tendered and seated.

Honours were then given and suitably responded by all 3 and seated.

Appointment of R E Kt Edward Ruska KCT as The High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master then announced that he had appointed Right Eminent Knight Edward Ruska KCT as The High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal for the year 2020 - 2021.

He was then escorted from the Chapter Room and the Great Marshal then announced the H®S was ready to enter. After forming an escort, the Great Seneschal Designate was admitted, obligated and invested.

The Great Herald accompanied by the Great Marshal was then called to make the Proclamation.

The High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal was then saluted with 9. The High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal suitably responded.

- **Investiture of Commissioned Officers: Great Prior of Malta; Great Sub Prior of Malta; Great Prelate; Great Chancellor; Great Vice-Chancellor, and Regional Great Sub-Priors and Great Marshal by the Grand Master.**

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master announced the appointment and re-appointment of the Commissioned Officers. In attendance:-

First Rank - R E Kt William Tupou KCM as Great Prior of Malta; R E Kt Stephen Murie KCT as Great Prelate;

Second Rank – R E Kt Dr. Donald Gifford GCT DSA as Great Chancellor; R E Kt Vernon Flood KCT as Great Vice-Chancellor;

Third Rank - V E Kt Les Keene, , V E Kt Clyde Jackson, V E Kt Geoff Shires, V E Kt Donald Davey, as Regional Great Sub-Priors,

Fourth Rank :- R E Kt Lester Dunstan KCT as Great Marshal.

Appointment of Great Priory Officers, and Investiture by Grand Master and the High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal.

The appointment of the Officers occurred as in accordance with the Ceremonial Procedures together with the presentation of Certificates. The names of those Great Officers in attendance were read and those assuming higher Office assembled and were invested and presented with Certificates by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master and the High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal.

Appointment of the Malta Officers, and Investiture by the Great Prior of Malta.

The appointment of the Officers occurred as in accordance with the Ceremonial Procedures for Great Priory Officers together with the presentation of Certificates. The names of those Great Officers in attendance were read and they assembled and were invested by the Great Prior of Malta.

Announcement of Banner Guards:

The Great Vice-Chancellor was then called upon to announce the names of The Banner Guards.

High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal offered fealty.

The High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal R E Kt Edward Ruska KCT then tendered to the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master and the Order, Fealty of himself and the invested Great Priory Officers.

Announcement of Grand Master's Bodyguard:

The Great Vice-Chancellor was then called upon to announce the names of the Grand Master's Bodyguard.

Grand Master's Address and Welcome to Distinguished Visitors.

Brother Knights and Fratres, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests.

I welcome you all here this afternoon in my capacity as Grand Master of the Great Priory of Queensland.

Special welcome to all the Masonic Fraternity and to say "how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in Unity".

I sincerely thank M E Kt Bob Bennett for his assistance during the last three years for this transition. His guidance and advice in all matters relevant to our Great Priory, hopefully will guide me throughout my term for the Office of Grand Master of the Priory of Qld.

I sincerely thank all the members who accepted Office during the coming year, and appreciate your support.

It has been and still is a very difficult times for all of us to navigate and negotiate through a maze of political, economic and personal life.

However, the journey of a Knight Templar begins as a Pilgrim, trying to reach the Holy City of Jerusalem as his prime devotion. He must travel through dangers and difficulties before reaching the Holy City. Eventually after his Christian mission comes his Knightly mission where he is invested with the Sword and the Amour to go forth to battle and maintain the Christian Faith.

Distinguished guests.

Looking around this room I see many of you, had years of experience, in Happiness, Sadness, War and Peace, Fire and Rain, and the Great Depression. Survival has been the key element over the years.

I hope, that these testing times which have affected us all, will soon come to an end.

I take this opportunity to wish each and every one a Healthy, Happy Christmas with your families,

And a Great New Year.

Until we meet again

Response to Grand Master's Address.

Most Worshipful Brother Raymond John Saunders of the Order of the Secret Monitor, Grand Conclave for Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea suitably responded.

Greetings extended from Sister Great Priories.

R E Kt Dr. Donald Gifford GCT DSA called upon the Representatives of Sister Great Priories to rise. Greetings on behalf of Sister Great Priories were then tendered with congratulations and best wishes to the Most Eminent Supreme Grand Master and the Order.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master then thanked IPGM for his sincere congratulations and best wishes on behalf of Sister Great Priories and requested those in attendance to convey his personal fraternal greetings and personal regards when next in communication with their respective counterparts in each of our Sister Great Priories.

Closure of Great Priory by Grand Master.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master then closed the Chapter of the Great Priory of Queensland in ample form at 4.35 pm.

Australian National Anthem.

The First Verse of the National Anthem was then sung.

Closure of Great Priory

Grand Masters Recession.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master retired in recession, accompanied by Distinguished Visitors and Officers of The Great Priory of Queensland under the direction of the Great Marshal at 4.50pm.

.....
Grand Master

M E Kt Jack Manasserian GCT

.....
Great Vice-Chancellor

R E Kt Vernon Flood KCT