

ACT COMMANDERY REPORT - JULY 2021

Since our last contribution, the ACT Commandery has planned and enjoyed our Annual Fundraising Dinner to support our friends at L'Arche Geneseret. Due to Covid restrictions we were limited to 120 guests and were delighted that through the generosity of our members and supporters we raised in excess of \$18,000 for L'Arche. Again we were privileged to raffle another wonderful landscape painting by Dr Roger Beale AO PSM OLJ.

Over the 29 years of our involvement with L'Arche, we have contributed in excess of \$400,000 to their work and we are look forward to celebrating a 30th anniversary fund raising dinner for them next year.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Prof Peter Collignon AM, an infectious diseases physician, WHO expert committee contributor and microbiologist at the ANU Medical School, who spoke to us about various Covid 19 related issues. His talk was very well received, especially by the medical professionals present.

Only two of our members attended the National Chapter in Melbourne due to concerns about the Covid virus, or other health-related issues. We were pleased that Air Cdre Peter McDermott AM CSC KLJ was elected for a further term as Marshal, and thankful for the sterling service of Dr John Donovan ED KLJ OMLJ who completed his six years as National Almoner.

Covid restrictions permitting:

We are planning to hold our Winter Service and Dinner on 25 August at the Carmelite Monastery in Red Hill, followed by dinner at the Commonwealth Club.

In September we hope to again gather for our Retreat at the Carmel, followed by lunch in Manuka. This year, we are grateful that Kate Cleary, the founder and co-ordinator of The Farm at Galong, will lead us.

Our second major fundraiser this year will be a Garden Party for The Farm at Galong (a charity supporting disadvantaged women), which will again be held in mid October at the home of Dr Bryan Cutter KLJ and Mrs Rosemary Cutter. It is a delightful time of year in Canberra, and hopefully guests can look forward to viewing the Cutter's wonderful garden of spring blossoms and bulbs while enjoying fellowship together.

Our Annual Cricket Match and BBQ for the core members of L'Arche is planned for early November, with the presentation to the winners of the much prized Heather Leedman trophy being the highlight of the day.

The culmination of our activities for the year will be the Patronal Service at Wesley Uniting Church where we will welcome our Grand Prior, who will invest Dr Roger Beale with his CLJ. The service will be followed by a celebratory dinner at The Commonwealth Club.

Liz Scrivener OAM CLJ
President
ACT Commandery
July 2021