

OLJ AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION



SPRING 2022

THE OLJ AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION
ANNUAL SPRING NEWSLETTER

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the first edition of the OLJ Australia Foundation newsletter.

Since becoming Chairman in December 2021, there have been a number of key developments with the Order of Saint Lazarus Australia Foundation (OLJ Australia Foundation). As mentioned at the National Chapter meeting, I am delighted that Mr Kevin Edwards AM KLJ OMLJ has joined the Foundation board. After the National Chapter meeting, Dr John Donovan ED KLJ CMLJ joined the Foundation Board as the Foundation Treasurer. These additions will ensure that the OLJ Australia Foundation has an extensive spread of experience, expertise, and perspectives.

Lady Potter AC CRMI has been instrumental in the development and ongoing success of the OLJ Australia Foundation. At the National Chapter meeting in Adelaide, Lady Potter pledged to provide \$10,000 if members of the Grand Priory would match this. I am pleased to advise that this challenge was met well before 30 June 2022. I want to thank Lady Potter and everyone who contributed to the OLJ Australia Foundation.

Finally, I once again reiterate that all members of the Grand Priory of Australia are eligible to become members of the OLJ Australia Foundation

For a modest subscription fee of \$50 per annum, you can be part of an organisation that seeks to make a difference to those we seek to serve, namely the disadvantaged. For further information, please visit our website: <https://oljfoundation.org/>

Anthony Kennedy OAM,
Chairman, GCPI



TONGA - NOT FORGOTTEN BY OLJ AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

Many Australians were shocked to see the significant and disastrous impacts of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano eruption on 15 January 2022. According to a World Bank assessment, this volcanic event caused an estimated US\$90.4M (TOP 208 million) in damages – approximately 18.5 per cent of Tonga's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

To hear that over 85,000 people (or 80 per cent of the population) across the Kingdom of Tonga have been affected by a 'once-in-a-millennium event' is difficult to comprehend

While the Australian, New Zealand, and other governments provided immediate assistance, it has become clear that the world's attention was quickly diverted to Ukraine, where another humanitarian problem was emerging. While the Order's Grand Magistral Council approved the payment of €20,000 for the eruption's rehabilitation here in Australia, we felt more needed to be done.

To this end Board members of OLJ Australian Foundation agreed to provide over AUD\$10,000 to assist with the recovery. These funds have been channelled via Anglican Overseas Aid to comply with the Australian Tax Office guidelines.

Ms Jo Knight, CEO of Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) said that the OLJ Australia Foundation's funds "will be directed to support the Tonga people following the recent emergency. This fund enables us to respond quickly when an emergency strikes around the world". Our funds will be sent directly to our partner in-country to provide basic necessities such as food, safe drinking water, shelter, and good hygiene practice. Ms Knight said that AOA continues "to provide new beginnings in many challenging situations. The aim of our work is to see new life rising again!"



IMAGE: State of Tonga's shoreline following the tsunami

NORTHERN RIVERS TO RECEIVE FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Earlier much of eastern Australia suffered some of the largest floods in living memory. This was particularly the case in northern NSW. The area, particularly around Lismore and Ballina, suffered significantly. Four hundred military personnel were sent to Lismore to help with the clean-up. Sadly, four people perished in Lismore after the area suffered its worst flood in recorded history, inundating many businesses and homes in the city, which peaked 2 meters above the town's last record flood. More than 3,000 homes in Lismore were affected by the flood. There were around 270 people who were moved to Lismore's two evacuation centres, with thousands of others finding shelter in family and friends' places of residence.

Members of the OLJ Australia Foundation were deeply concerned that the Northern Rivers communities were subjected to multiple flooding events. Providing financial support to a charity that was putting significant resources into the region was a priority. Saint Vincent de Paul was the preferred charity, given that they provided significant support to flood-affected residents. In her letter to the OLJ Australia Foundation, Yolanda Saiz (Executive Director Enterprise, Fundraising and Communications) indicated her appreciation "for the generous support, we really appreciate it and the NSW Flood Appeal will greatly benefit from this large donation".



IMAGE: Aerial footage of the flooding crisis, NSW



IMAGE: Saint Vincent de Paul's Presbyterian Church, Lismore

KNOW YOUR FOUNDATION MEMBER: MR. JOE THORP CLJ (SECRETARY)

"Coming from a long line of Quakers and Anglicans volunteering and giving to charity has been a part of my family's DNA forever and I've been involved in various causes and committees all my life really. On a practical level, I've particularly enjoyed assisting with the set up of food rescue charity Oz Harvest when Ronni brought it to Adelaide and served on its Board here, as well as connecting up donors and suppliers to address the extraordinary amount of hunger amongst the working poor and welfare dependant amongst us. Also as Chairman of Guide Dogs SANTS to support mobility and independence, not only for the visually impaired but to be part of the pioneering work with Autism Assistance dogs which helped so many families to live better lives and to set the organisation up for the transition to the NDIS and establish Beau's Pet Hotel as a future revenue stream for Guide Dogs was very rewarding.

As Chairman of the Governors at St Peter's College, we've done a lot of work to get the Foundation working effectively and it's now starting to generate strong income to assist deserving young men & the community. As Chairman of State Theatre Company SA, we've restructured the Foundation and its relationship with the Company to make the Foundation an engine room for giving and supporting the arts in SA providing opportunities & support for new & emerging writers, directors, and artists.

So when I was approached to join the Order of St Lazarus Australia Foundation I saw straight away what a force for good it could be in the long term with the right focus and a decent corpus, which is what we are all working toward, so that it can sit as an adjunct to the work of State Commanderies but with perhaps a longer-term horizon and assisting in national or international aid and assistance projects. Trish and I really enjoy our membership of the Order and our work to serve the community, with the State Commandery's focus generally being on this year and the next. The Foundation has a slightly different dimension and it's great to be on the board and to work alongside Anthony Kennedy OAM and the other Directors who share the desire to build something perpetual."



IMAGE: MR. Joe Thorp CLJ



A STRONG FINISH FOR THE OLJ AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

The OLJ Australia Foundation Board were deeply encouraged by a generous offer by Lady Potter with the provision of \$10,000 to the OLJ Australia Foundation on the condition that it was matched by 30 June 2022. Members of the Foundation were delighted to see that 17 members (and potential members) made donations totalling over \$12,000, which came within six weeks of the challenge being issued (at the National Chapter meeting in Adelaide).

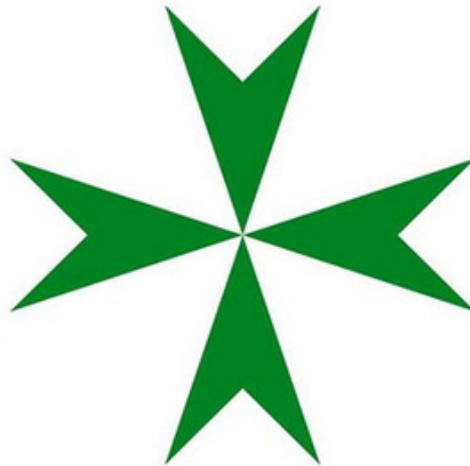
The Chairman of the OLJ Australia Foundation, Chev Anthony Kennedy OAM, said he was "delighted to see such strong support for the Foundation, with the majority of people providing donations of \$500 or more". What was more encouraging was the donations that were made during the National Chapter registration process, where an addition \$3,060 was donated by members. Last financial year, we had over 30 individuals make a donation to the Foundation, many for the first time.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FOUNDATION

At the National Chapter meeting in Adelaide in May 2022, the Chairman of the Foundation announced that all members of the Grand Priory of Australia were eligible to become a member of the OLJ Australia Foundation.

To join, please visit the website download a copy of the form, and send the details to Mr Joe Thorp CLJ at josephethorp@gmail.com The annual subscription is \$50. To make a payment please feel free to use the banking details below.

OSL Australia Nominee Limited General Trust Fund
BSB number 085-005
Account number 94-413-1745



DONATE TODAY

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation please use the following banking details:

OSL Australia Foundation Public Ancillary Fund
BSB number 085-005
Account number 94-396-7276

Please email Treasurer Dr John Donovan ED KLJ CMLJ johndonovan@ozemail.com.au to organise an electronic receipt.

CONTACT

Further information can be found at [HTTPS://OLJFOUNDATION.ORG](https://oljfoundation.org)

Newsletter designed and compiled by Mr Matthew C. Bannon, 'Friend of the Order' and Psychology/Law student at Melbourne University".

