

The Madireng

January–March 2025



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St John



St John Brigade

From the desk of
CHIEF COMMISSIONER

Dr James Moodie CSJ

As we move into the second quarter of the year, it's hard to believe how quickly time is flying by. One of the standout highlights of the past few months has been the Brigade Leadership Training & Information Course. As I write this, we've successfully completed the first four sessions, all of which have gone remarkably well. A dedicated group of Brigade members is participating in these sessions, eager to enhance their leadership skills and deepen their understanding of the Brigade and St John. I am confident that this course and future renditions will nurture a generation of competent Brigade leaders. Additionally, it has provided valuable feedback to the Brigade National Leadership Team, allowing us to hear your insights on how the Brigade can operate more effectively.

I would also like to remind everyone about the Brigade's honours and awards programme. Please take a moment to consider which awards you may be eligible for in recognition of your service to St John. We offer awards based on years of service and hours contributed, along with special awards such as Youth Leader of the Year and Cadet of the Year. You'll find further details about our recent award recipients elsewhere in this edition. If you need more information about the honours and awards programme, please speak to your Commanding Officer. Remember, applications are now accepted through our online application portal.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our Brigade volunteers for your unwavering commitment to St John. If you have any concerns, comments, or queries, feel free to reach out to me directly at james.moodie@stjohn.org.za. However, please continue to stay in



touch with your local officers to stay updated on any important news.

As we approach Easter and the various school holidays and long weekends occurring in South Africa throughout April 2025, I encourage everyone to prioritise safety during this busy time. Let's be mindful of one another and ensure a safe and enjoyable season for all. To our Christian members celebrating Easter, may you find joy and renewal in the spirit of this blessed season.

Wishing you all the best,
James

Brigade Honours & Awards *and Triennial appointments*

Order Honours

Stuart Waetzel GCSJ - Bailiff Grand Cross

Thozamile Kula OSTJ - Officer

Leashi Chettiar MSTJ - Serving Member

Thato Maoba MSTJ - Serving Member

Lezani September MSTJ - Serving Member

Nomsa Siwela MSTJ - Serving Member

Service Awards

Div. Off. Philadelphia Lose

Ian Crowther Youth Leader of The Year (2024/2025)

Cdt Emihle Tshangela

Prior's Cadet of The Year (2024/2025)

How to apply/nominate

To **apply** for an award or **nominate** fellow Brigade volunteers for **honours or awards**, all you need to do is make an application online!

The **Brigade's Honours & Awards Platform** can be accessed by scanning the **QR code** with your tablet or mobile device or simply following this **web address** through your computer or laptop:

<https://forms.gle/B4MBTuUqtvXEcnaK7>

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR
INSTAGRAM FOR REGULAR UPDATES, NOTICES
AND REMINDERS ABOUT HONOURS & AWARDS



CLICK HERE TO
JOIN



CLICK HERE TO
JOIN



YOUTH LEADER AND CADET OF THE YEAR 2024/2025

We are thrilled to announce and congratulate Philadelphia Lose and Emihle Tshangela on being awarded the prestigious titles of National Youth Leader of the Year and Cadet of the Year for 2024/2025. Their dedication and hard work have truly paid off!

Div. Off. Philadelphia Lose

Ian Crowther Youth
Leader of The Year
(2024/2025)



Cdt Emihle Tshangela

Prior's Cadet
of The Year
(2024/2025)



The Youth Leader and Cadet of the Year awards celebrate exceptional contributions and performance over the past year, highlighting individuals who exemplify the spirit of chivalry and service that lies at the heart of our Order. The Youth Leader of the Year award recognises the most outstanding brigade member in youth leadership, considering factors such as the number of Proficiency Badges awarded under their leadership, their role in advancing the organisation's youth movement and the activity level of their cadet group.

Philadelphia has shown remarkable leadership and commitment in the Kimberley District. Her constant availability and active participation in the Youth Programme have set a commendable example for her peers.

Emihle, on the other hand, has inspired many with her charisma and dedication to her school club, leading the Kimberley Girls High Division to new heights. Her self-driven initiatives and successful campaigns, especially her victory at her District first aid competition, have clearly distinguished her within her club.

The Prior's Cadet of the Year award honours the most outstanding Cadet nationally, evaluated on criteria like leadership, respectability, maturity, proficiency and service.

Once again, congratulations to both of you, ladies!

Mr Thozamile Lovers Kula OSTJ
Chief Staff Officer Youth

Calendar

Upcoming days

Celebratory



Good Friday
18 April 2025

Celebratory



Easter Sunday
20 April 2025

Awareness



World Malaria Day
25 April 2025

Celebratory



Freedom Day
27 April 2025

Awareness



International Nurses Day
12 April 2025

Awareness



National Cancer Survivors Day
1 June 2025

Awareness



World Blood Donor Day
14 June 2025

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Dr Francis Sands OStJ

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUART WAETZEL ON HIS PROMOTION TO BAILIFF GRAND CROSS

On January 23, the Brigade was thrilled to learn that Stuart Waetzel, Chancellor of our Priory and former Chief Commissioner, was promoted to Bailiff Grand Cross by the King, the highest rank within the Order of St John. This prestigious honour is a testament to Stuart's unwavering integrity, loyalty and devotion to St John over the past 40 years. With well wishes coming in from the Lord Prior in Australia and several friends across the St John community, an enjoyable lunch was hosted at Glenshiel (Priory) in Westcliff to celebrate this remarkable achievement.

In attendance were South Africa's other two Bailiffs Grand Cross, Maj. Ian Crowther and Prof. Deon Fourie, along with the CEO, Chief Commissioner and many friends of St John, past and present, as well as other Priory staff. This was a particularly proud moment for the Brigade; as far as we are aware, Stuart is the first uniformed Brigade member to obtain this high honour in South Africa.

Let us continue to support Stuart in his efforts to lead St John South Africa toward a brighter future.



A grand lunch at Glenshiel to celebrate a grand occasion



L-R South Africa's three Bailiffs Grand Cross: Maj. Ian Crowther, Stuart Waetzel, Prof. Deon Fourie

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Continued...

GQEBERHA INVESTITURE AND REDEDICATION SERVICE

On April 5th, the Priory for South Africa held an investiture and rededication ceremony at St John's Anglican Church in Gqeberha. During the ceremony, Glynis Armstrong received her insignia as a Commander of the Order, while Unette Jacobs was awarded her insignia as an Officer. Additionally, Kesia Campbell, Jualine Ferreira, Lynette Johnson, Mina Perels, Taryn Rensburg, Shirene Walls and Danielle Williams were admitted as new Members of the Order and presented with their medals. Order confrères also had the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the Order values. The ceremony was led by the Chancellor, Stuart Waetzel GCStJ, making it a wonderful occasion to celebrate the selfless dedication of those who were honoured.



The Chancellor's procession makes its way through the church



Glynis Armstrong CSJ is addressed by the Chancellor Stuart Waetzel GCStJ before obtaining her insignia



Group photograph of all postulants and ceremonial participants

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FOR ALL OPERATIONAL (ADULTS & CADETS) & AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS

Have you completed the electronic
Brigade Membership Form?

If not, use this link to complete it!



This is vital for us to be able to record/recognise you as a member of the Brigade. Without a completed Membership Form you will not be officially recognised as a member of St John Brigade. This information is critical for us to permit your service with us, be able to notify you of opportunities, track your membership and stats for the issuing of awards and insure you from harm on our events.

If you have already completed the form there is no need to complete it again unless your information has changed.

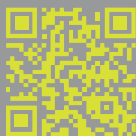
DIVISIONAL OFFICERS, IT IS ALSO YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERS HAVE COMPLETED THIS FORM AND ASSIST WHERE NEEDED!!!

For those wishing to be paid **duty stipends** timely, please remember to additionally complete the **Personal Information Form** available from events@sja.org.za

EVENT MEDICAL COVERAGE

**Need medical personnel
at your school soccer
match, music concert or
private function?**

St John Brigade has you covered. For a nominal fee our First Aiders, Ambulance Attendants and other medically trained professionals and volunteers can help provide you with a professional service that allows you peace of mind when disaster strikes.



BOOK NOW

TEL: 011 403 4227

EMAIL: events@sja.org.za

www.stjohn.org.za/event-medical-cover/



St John
Brigade



THE OPERATIONAL REPORT

Ms Cathy Dedman DStJ

As duty activities continue to slowly increase nationwide, it's essential to discuss the proper setup of first aid posts. Rather than providing a traditional report this month, we'll focus on ensuring that our first aid posts are well-prepared and tailored to meet the demands of our clients and duties.

Understanding First Aid Posts

A first aid post is defined by the specific requirements of each duty assignment. Depending on the scenario, this could range from using an ambulance as the primary first aid post to setting up a designated room or simply creating an organised space with tables and chairs. Regardless of the setup, certain fundamental principles should guide the establishment of any first aid post.

Firstly, maintaining neatness and organisation is vital. A clean environment instills confidence and allows for efficient operation during emergencies. Secondly, all equipment must be routinely checked and kept in working order to ensure readiness when needed. It's crucial to research the particular event you'll be attending, preparing for injuries that may be related to the activities involved. Finally, a proper waste disposal method, such as a container or bag, should be established to manage medical waste responsibly.

Key, Considerations for Different Types of First Aid Posts

Ambulance Setup

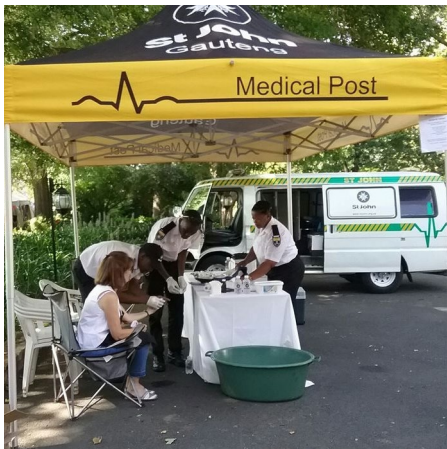
When an ambulance serves as a first aid post, it should be tidy and free of unnecessary equipment. Personal items must be securely stored away in the designated compartments. It is important that the ambulance be parked in a manner that allows it to be easily seen and identified by responders and casualties. Moreover, it should be parked in a manner that allows for swift departures in emergencies.



Outdoor First Aid Post

When setting up an outdoor first aid post, it is crucial to protect it from the elements, like wind and rain, while

ensuring privacy for those seeking assistance. Ideally, the area should be enclosed and equipped with stretchers or blankets as makeshift beds. A table for medical equipment and chairs for casualties will enhance comfort and organisation. Make sure to include a medical waste bag or sharps container, establish an area for personal belongings away from the treatment zone and ensure proximity to toilet facilities and handwashing stations whenever possible. If there is some choice on the precise location, it is also essential to make sure that the area is well signed where possible so that the public can easily find the post when needed and event organisers and other personnel working at the event/duty are aware of the location.



Indoor First Aid Room

The optimal choice for a first aid post is a dedicated first aid room, which can be easily arranged as a medical facility. This space should ideally include beds and chairs, along with sheets and pillows for patient comfort. If not already in place, consider adding

screens for privacy; excess blankets or sheets can be hung to assist in this matter. As with outdoor first aid posts, access to toilet facilities and handwashing stations are important. However, with indoor first aid posts comes greater access to electricity. Give some consideration to possible equipment on site which could be moved into the first aid post and may enhance the functionality of the room/post, for example, additional lighting, a heater for warmth or a fridge to store cool packs and other temperature-sensitive equipment/supplies. Finally, do not forget a medical waste bag or sharps container to ensure safe disposal of hazardous materials.



Properly setting up first aid posts is critical in ensuring we can provide effective care during events. By adhering to these guidelines, we can enhance our readiness and overall effectiveness as first responders. As we prepare for the upcoming duties, let's work together to create safe, organised and efficient environments that reflect the high standards of care we aim to provide.



THE MEDICAL REPORT

Maj. Ashley Alcock MSJ

Continuing Professional Development

(CPD) points are essential for maintaining professional competence and ethical practice among healthcare practitioners. If you wish to maintain your qualifications and be able to practice in South Africa, you need to obtain a certain amount of points each year and have them logged with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). This month I am going to talk a little bit about CPD points and important updates that you should be aware of.

What is CPD?

CPD points, are credits earned annually and logged with the HPCSA through attending or partaking in a range of learning experiences designed to enhance the skills, knowledge and ethical attitudes of medical professionals. Beyond initial training, CPD ensures practitioners stay current with industry standards and best practices. It plays a vital role in conforming to legal, regulatory and ethical standards, promoting transparency, accountability and fairness in healthcare in South Africa. While our basic first aiders and home-based carers are not required to obtain or meet CPD point requirements, these points become critical for those with more senior medical qualifications. Understanding CPD requirements specific to your qualification is crucial to maintaining your potential to

practice.

For example, a differing number of points is required for different healthcare and allied healthcare professionals. The HPCSA website provides more details on the specific requirements (i.e. number of points) required annually for each qualification. The Brigade regularly posts notices on our national Facebook group and in several Officer WhatsApp groups of opportunities to obtain CPD points, with numerous taking place online and thus widely accessible to all irrespective of your province or district. Do join our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/866625727383580>) to keep regularly updated or ask your officer about upcoming CPD opportunities to join.



Recent Announcements



For those of you who have perhaps fallen short on points for this past year, the HPCSA announced a three-month extension for practitioners to rectify their CPD compliance, effective from 1 April to 30 June 2025, to catch up and meet their obligations. Again, do join our Facebook group to keep regularly updated or ask your officer about upcoming CPD opportunities to be informed:



Moreover, for our nursing volunteers, the

South African Nursing Council (SANC) has also recently introduced a CPD framework for nurses and midwives, mandating these practitioners accumulate 15 CPD points annually too. This initiative is designed to promote lifelong learning and enhance professional competence, ultimately ensuring safe and ethical nursing practices. If you were not aware of this, it is important that you familiarise yourself with these new requirements.



At St John Brigade, I believe that CPD is not merely a checkbox but a commitment to excellence and continuous learning. As healthcare professionals, we need to proudly uphold our standards and strive for the highest quality of care.



THE YOUTH REPORT

Thozamile Lovers Kula oStJ

How Can We Foster Youth Leadership Within The Brigade?

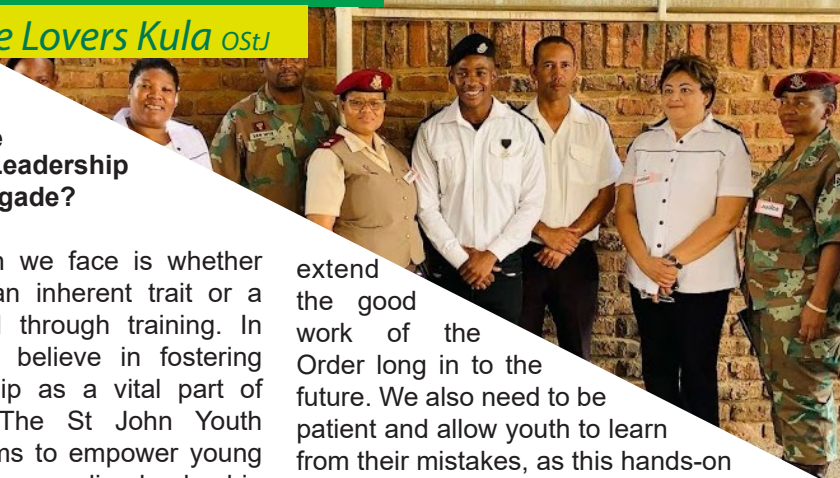
A key question we face is whether leadership is an inherent trait or a skill developed through training. In the Brigade, I believe in fostering youth leadership as a vital part of our mission. The St John Youth Programme aims to empower young leaders through our online leadership workshops and course as well SYAN. These opportunities help equip and inspire youth across our ranks. However to truly excel, we need to do more and to foster opportunities to practice and hone those skills.



Empowering young people to lead is essential. I am encouraging all our established divisional officers to try involve more of our younger members in taking charge in divisions, planning meetings and leading activities. Involving our younger members at an early age in both planning and execution helps them not only develop crucial organisational skills but is often a huge motivating factor for them to

extend the good work of the Order long in to the future. We also need to be patient and allow youth to learn from their mistakes, as this hands-on experience often leads to surprising and innovative outcomes.

A recent inspiration is Kimberley Girls High School. The girls, supported by their school teacher, have been encouraged to take the lead in activities. For example, the girls took charge and put together a beautiful video for World Restart a Heart Day. And by affording space for the cadets in this division to take on leadership and decision-making responsibilities this school has given space for their division to thrive and their cadets to excel to the point that this year's Prior's Cadet of the Year has been awarded to Emihle Tshangela - my congratulations goes out to Emihle on this extraordinary achievement.



Mentorship and reflection are also vital components which our divisional officers need to think about. I am committed to creating a robust mentorship programme that ensures a continuous pipeline of leaders. Through SYAN and district advisory networks, I want to further facilitate youth participation in decision making and providing them with greater platforms to voice their ideas and concerns. Here, I am already involving cadets and youth in reviewing our badgework programmes and competitions; promoting modern and relevant soft skills development and exciting challenges.

Fostering youth leadership is not just an ideology in the Brigade, it is my commitment. By equipping, enabling

and inspiring our cadets and young people, we are going to prepare the next generation of leaders in St John Brigade.

WISDOM'S LIGHT

by Cdt. Boitshpo Molete
Kimberley Technical High School

*In the quiet corners of the mind,
With silver threads and thoughts refined,
There sits a sage with a gentle gaze,
A beacon bright through life's vast maze.*

*His hair, like clouds, purest white,
Carries the weight of day and night,
Each strand a story, each wrinkle a tale,
Of triumphs and trials, love that won't fail.*

*With a voice as soft as the evening breeze,
He speaks in riddles, brings hearts to ease,
His laughter dances like sun on the sea,
In his presence, the lost find clarity.*

*"Seek not the answers in haste," he sighs,
"For the journey is wisdom that never
denies.
In solitude's embrace, in moments so still,
You'll find the answers, if you just will."*

*His hands, though aged, hold timeless
grace,
In every gesture, a warm embrace.
He teaches patience, the art of the wait,
To trust in the seasons, to cherish fate.*

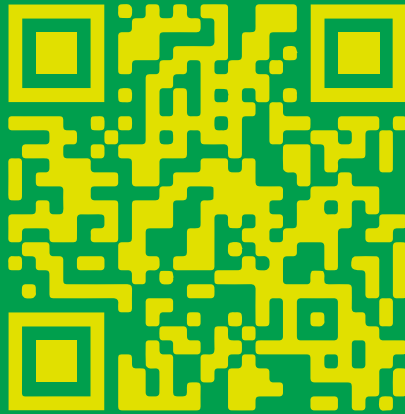
*In shadowy doubts, where darkness may
creep,
Wisdom stands watch, his vigil to keep.
"Fear not the unknown, for I am near,"
He whispers gently, calming each fear.*

*As twilight descends, and stars fill the sky,
Wisdom covers the weary with a sigh,
A silver-haired guardian, aged and wise,
In his profound silence, the universe lies.*



Our organisation is committed to maintaining a safe and ethical workplace environment for all employees and customers. If you witness or suspect any form of wrongdoing, we encourage you to report it immediately. Your voice is crucial in upholding our values and ensuring accountability.

Order of St John Ethics Hotline:



Please scan the QR code with your smartphone camera for a safe, anonymous and convenient way to report wrongdoing.

Alternatively, please use the link below:

https://thornhill.co.za/ethicshotline_stjohn

Here for Good

Chief Commissioner

Dr James Moodie CStJ.....james.moodie@stjohn.org.za

Chief Staff Officer for Brigade Operations

Ms Cathy Dedman DStJ.....cathy.dedman@stjohn.org.za

Chief Medical Officer

Maj. Ashley Alcock MStJ.....ashley.alcock@stjohn.org.za

Chief Staff Officer for Youth

Mr Thozamile Kula OSTJ.....thozamile.kula@stjohn.org.za

Chief Staff Officer for Brigade Administration

Dr Francis Sands OSTJ.....francis.sands@stjohn.org.za

Volunteer with St John Brigade

www.stjohn.org.za/stjohn-brigade/

First aid training

www.stjohn.org.za/training-courses/

Medical cover at your event

www.stjohn.org.za/event-medical-cover/

First aid supplies

www.stjohn.org.za/shop-first-aid-kits/

Donate to one of our causes

www.stjohn.org.za/donate-2/

