



HAMPERS TO HELP – SUPPORTING BUSHFIRE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Following the devastating bushfire that rocked the world at the beginning of the year, the Order of Malta has been supporting impacted communities with not only an initial emergency response but longer-term recovery.

Mogo, a small goldrush town in NSW with a population of about 300, has in recent years attracted tourists for its arts and crafts stories and heritage buildings.

During the bushfires last summer not only homes but business premises were damaged or destroyed and Covid-19 has further hampered the rehabilitation efforts with many small businesses struggling following restrictions that have limited visitors.



FOOD BAGS PROVIDED TO THOSE FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN THAILAND

Members and volunteers of the Order of Malta Thailand continue to deliver supplies to those continuing to experience hardship due to Covid-19.

The Order of Malta has partnered with local suppliers and created a Christmas Hamper to support businesses in bushfire impacted communities and contain:

- ✱ 105gm Black Berry Jam Clyde River Berry Farm
- ✱ 105gm Strawberry Jam Clyde River Berry Farm
- ✱ 200ml Mogo Village Honey
- ✱ 100gm bar goats milk soap unscented Mogo Soap Emporium
- ✱ 215gm French Pear & Cinnamon Travel Candle Mogo Candle Co
- ✱ 100gm 'Thank you' Rock Candy The Mogo Lolly Shop
- ✱ 200gm Bushfire Relief Blend Ground Coffee - Guerrilla Roasters

Mogo Christmas Hampers cost \$69.95 (including postage*) and are available from shop.orderofmalta.org.au.

*Postage to Australian addresses only. Hampers will be despatched from 1 November 2020 onwards.

FOOD PARCELS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS IN TASMANIA IMPACTED BY COVID-19



"I would like to thank you for the groceries I received. It's really helpful in these difficult times. Thank you very much for your generosity."

In Tasmania, members have assisted foreign students who do not qualify for support from either the Commonwealth or State governments, by providing emergency food hampers. Many have lost their student jobs necessary to pay for their rent, food, tuition, transport and are unable to fly home during the pandemic.

Pedro (pictured) is a UTAS post graduate student who works as a casual employee in the hospitality sector. As a foreign student Visa holder with two dependants (his spouse and their one year old child), neither his wife or he qualified for Jobkeeper or Jobseeker and exclusively rely on their own earnings. Their income has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

ORDER OF MALTA CHRISTMAS CARDS



Every year since the early 1980s, the Australian Association of the Order, has been providing an Annual Christmas Card for use by Members. It always has the same theme, an Image of the Madonna and Child Jesus with his cousin John, very familiar to us as John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of our Order.

This year on the front cover we have a painting by Polidoro da Lanciano (Italian c. 1515-1565) The Madonna and Child with the young Saint John the Baptist, mid 16th Century. We are grateful for the opportunity to use this beautiful work of art from the collection of Kerry Stokes, Perth.

There is a Christmas greeting inside the card and a note about the Order's history on the back cover.

Members, candidates and friends of the Australian Association are urged to support the spiritual and charitable work of the Order by ordering these exceptional cards.

A pack of 10 Order of Malta Christmas cards cost \$35 plus postage.

Cards can be purchased online at shop.orderofmalta.org.au

Please support this initiative and order your cards now to ensure prompt delivery.



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

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WINTER RETREAT OF THE SUBPRIORY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN SYDNEY

The Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception holds semi-annual retreats to allow members the opportunity to spend more time in prayer and contemplation to deepen their relationship with God.

Each year a summer retreat is held in Melbourne and a winter retreat in Sydney. The winter retreat took place on 27th – 29th August at Canisius Centre of Spirituality in Pymble. The Centre provides a generous expanse of grounds much

suited for reflection and strict social distancing and Covid-19 precautions were taken to ensure the safety of participants.

This retreat's primary theme was Order of Malta's purpose as stated in its constitution – "the promotion of the glory of God through the sanctification of its members". Attendees also reflected on the life of our patron St John the Baptist as the third day of the retreat coincided with the feast day of his martyrdom.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO FAMILIES WHO LOST HOMES IN FIRE



Following an appeal to assist families in Mimili who lost their homes in a fire, members of South Australia sent 16 sleeping bags from Adelaide to the Aboriginal community located 1,200km away.

The sleeping bags provided much needed warmth to families who lost their homes in a fire. We were blessed to receive the assistance of NATSIC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission) staff who assisted with speedy transportation of the sleeping bags from Adelaide to Mimili. This collaboration opened the door to discussions to be held with NATSIC on how we can be more supportive and hands on in our work together.

✱ SAVE THE DATE ✱

Please visit orderofmalta.org.au for regular updates of upcoming events.

5 DEC 2020
Lourdes Day Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney at 10am
29 APR – 4 MAY 2021
Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage
24 – 27 JUN 2021
Biennial National Assembly (Melbourne)

19 – 24 SEP 2021
Asia Pacific Youth Camp, Gold Coast Australia
5 – 15 NOV 2021
Holy Land Pilgrimage
16 – 22 NOV 2021
Malta Extension

✱ Please note our postal address has changed:

The Australian Association of the Order of Malta
PO Box 79, Caringbah NSW 1495
Telephone: +61 2 9331 8477 | info@orderofmalta.org.au
www.orderofmalta.org.au



Following the devastating explosion that shook the core of Beirut City on August 4, 2020 the Order of Malta was able to initiate a rapid response, due to the Lebanese Association's existing strong presence in the city undertaking significant healthcare and social welfare projects.

In the weeks following the explosion, members and volunteers of the Order of Malta Lebanon have been working relentlessly to provide free healthcare assistance in the most affected areas at 12 primary health care centres, 5 major hospitals and the main state drugs warehouse which were severely damaged by the explosion.

The Order of Malta in Lebanon also opened its centre in Chabrouh as a shelter for families who have lost their homes and who need a safe place to stay. It has also developed a mental health and psychosocial support programme at the Ain el Remmaneh centre, offering telephone consultations as well.

An established network of more than 300 volunteers quickly mobilised. They are in the field every day, cleaning houses,

providing ready-to-eat food and meals, evaluating damage in certain dedicated areas for refurbishment. They are also distributing hygiene packs following a spike in Covid-19 infections.

In the meantime all other projects of the Order of Malta in the country dedicated to the vulnerable, the sick, the elderly and the differently-abled persons, are still very active as the crisis deepens all over the country and needs keep growing by the day.

Order of Malta organisations around the world quickly rallied to provide support following the blast. The Australian Association of the Order of Malta made an initial donation of 10,000 euros to support the emergency relief effort and, following an appeal to members and donors, a further \$30,000 has been raised to assist their projects for the longer-term recovery efforts.

Meanwhile Malteser International is supporting the work of the Lebanese Association's mobile medical units. It is focusing on restocking medical supplies, strengthening measures against Covid-19 and providing psychosocial support.



Following the devastating explosion in Lebanon, Members of the Order of Malta's Australian Executive Council joined Candidates, volunteers and family to pray the Rosary for our brethren in Beirut.

"Physical wounds have been treated, but the catastrophe and the sudden loss of basic security have done extensive damage to the mental health of people affected," said Clemens Mirbach, Malteser International's Country Coordinator for Lebanon. "Many patients have asked for sedatives to cope with the trauma experienced".



On Thursday 13 August, Order of Malta leaders gathered to hear an update from the Lebanese Association in the aftermath of the Beirut explosion at the Global Fund for Forgotten People's latest 'Reports from the Frontline' virtual conference.

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au to watch a recording of the session.

Donations of \$2 and more to the Order of Malta Emergency Relief fund are tax deductible. Donate online at www.orderofmalta.org.au or complete the donation coupon on page 5.



900TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF OUR FOUNDER BLESSED FRA' GERARD

On 3 September 2020, knights and dames of the Order of Malta attended a mass to mark the 900th anniversary of the death of the Order's founder Blessed Fra' Gerard at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. The mass was celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, who is also one of the Order of Malta's honorary conventual chaplains.

Whilst attendance at the Cathedral was limited due to Covid-19 social distancing

precautions, hundreds of Order of Malta members, volunteers and supporters worldwide were able to join the mass via livestream.

Blessed Fra' Gerard died in Jerusalem on 3 September 1120. He was the founder and first Grand Master of the Order of Malta one of the oldest religious orders of the Catholic Church.

His hospital for pilgrims to the Holy Land accepted everyone, regardless of origin or religion. For nine centuries members and volunteers of the Order of Malta have put his ideals of faith and charity into practice. This mission is today more relevant than ever as testified by medical, social and humanitarian commitments the Order has in 120 countries.

To serve the sick and the poor is the gift that Fra' Gerard left us and for which we remember him on this important 900th anniversary of his death.



"As we now approach its millennium, the Order still seeks, like Blessed Gerard, to defend the faith and serve Christ in the sick poor. We lead by serving, as Christ recommends in our Gospel."

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP



The Order also wishes to thank Archbishop Fisher for celebrating the Mass and making St Mary's Cathedral available for the occasion. His support of and interest in our work and history is something we appreciate greatly.

▶ Watch a recording of the mass at www.orderofmalta.org.au

'STORY TELLING CENTRE' AT MILTON TO ASSIST BUSHFIRE VICTIMS

The Order of Malta has partnered with the Milton Ulladulla parish to open a 'Story Telling Centre' for bushfire victims. The parish encompasses the town of Conjola Park where approximately 100 homes were lost in the New Year's bushfires. The centre will organise recovery events, connect people with services and provide support to those impacted.

Members of the Order will assist in the manning of the centre. The team will be trained in Psychological First Aid and will be rostered to work at centre to engage

with the locals and participating in the many organised events. Training has



Pictured outside of the new Story Telling Centre, Milton Ulladulla parish priest Fr. Michael Dyer and Order of Malta members Frank Testa and Dunstan de Souza.

already commenced with the first session completed on 19 September 2020.

The opening of the Story Telling Centre would not be possible without the generous support of our members and donors who also enabled us to provide \$60,000 in emergency food vouchers to those affected NSW, VIC and SA during the fires.

Please consider a donation to assist the recovery efforts in impacted communities. Tax deductible donations can be made on page 5.



2021 ORDER OF MALTA YOUTH CAMP ON THE GOLD COAST

The Australian Association's hosting of the Asia Pacific Youth Camp has been like so many things in 2020 affected by the current COVID -19 pandemic. However with excellent support from the Queensland Department of Education, at whose facilities the Camp will be held, the camp has been rescheduled for 19th to 24th September 2021.

The Camp is a wonderful opportunity for The Order's guests who have challenges in their lives, their carers and an enthusiastic group of volunteers to come together for constructive fellowship and personal growth.

The Australian Association continues to plan for a Camp encompassing all the Asia Pacific associations and delegations of the Order of Malta. The COVID requirements will at all times be factored into those plans. Fundraising will be actively managed to allow the best Camp possible to be provided for the 150 guests, carers and volunteers expected to attend.

We need to raise \$250,000 to host the 2021 Asia Pacific Youth Camp. Donations to support this project can be made on page 5.

ART WITH THE ELDERLY – FOSTERING CREATIVE SPIRIT

In the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, member of the Order of Malta, Richard Hall has been a guest teacher in the U3A art program at a retirement village.

The program aims to provide learning opportunities for older people in a friendly, supportive and social environment, using the skills and abilities

of the members themselves with an emphasis on learning for the love of it.

The art program has no pre-requisites of skill and during the 90 minute weekly sessions the artists are gradually introduced to the basic techniques in pastel, water colour and charcoal media. In doing so it fosters the creative spirit of the elderly residents while lifting their feeling of self-worth.

During the program Richard has noticed the participants remarkable progress, with one artist selling a piece at a local gallery. Most importantly there is the growing sense of community spirit as the artists share the delights of their creativity and discuss discovered techniques or experiments that worked.



"I participated in the Order for Malta Camp for Young Adults in Hong Kong in October 2019. It was one of the best weeks of my life."

For once, I was allowed to be myself. It was OK and normal to be me, not the "disabled me". The volunteers were caring, encouraging and went out of their way to ensure I had a great time.

I made lots of new friends and loved travelling overseas. I really had a ton of fun doing things outside my comfort zone and would normally not have the opportunity to try. I got to do archery and table tennis and rock climbing and went on a roller coaster. I even got up on stage and performed (with others!!).

I just can't wait to enjoy that again on the Gold Coast in 2021. Thank you to everyone who made it possible."

Christien Saklawy pictured with his mother Janet in Hong Kong 2019



The session has also attracted residents who do not participate in the art sessions but enjoy talking to the members and sharing in the artists' enthusiasm.

COVID-19 CARE PACKS AND COATS FOR THE HOMELESS

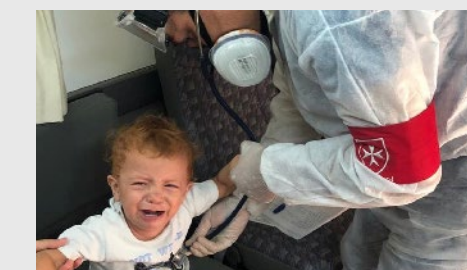
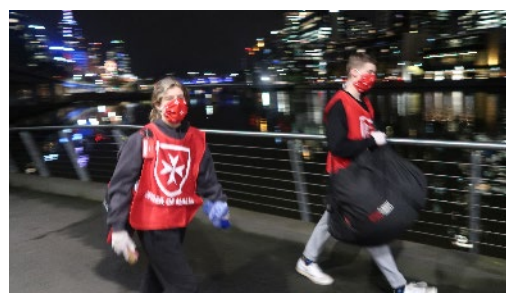
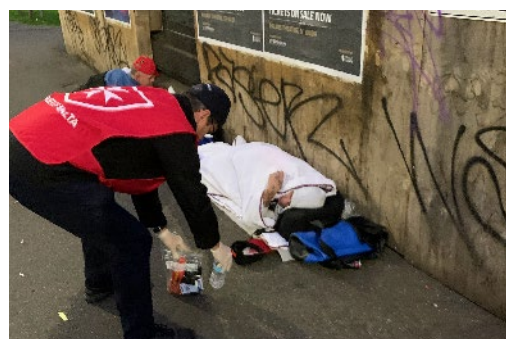
Thank you to everyone who supported this project and ensured that 5,000 Coats for the Homeless and 1,000 Covid-19 Care Packs were distributed this winter.

Special thanks to our volunteers who quickly adapted to work within the Covid-19 restrictions to ensure we were still able to distribute to those in need and the working bee volunteers who at short notice gathered to assemble the Covid-19 care packs.

As we move into spring, each region is planning to continue to provide services to the homeless during the pandemic whilst also planning 2021 Coats for the Homeless distribution. As with every year, we need to place the manufacturing order for the Coats by the end of the year to ensure delivery in time for winter and the order is dictated by funds available for this project.



Please consider a donation to support Coats for the Homeless to ensure next winter we can provide this vital service to rough sleepers. Donate at www.coatsforthehomeless.org or complete the donation coupon below.



I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by completing this form and returning it in the reply paid envelope provided.

☐ I am happy for the Order to allocate my donation to where the need is greatest; or

I would like to support:

- ☐ Emergency Relief Fund – Lebanon Appeal
- ☐ Natural Disaster Fund – Bushfire Appeal
- ☐ Coats for the Homeless
- ☐ Asia Pacific Youth Camp 2021

REMEMBER, GIFTS OF \$2 AND OVER ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

- ☐ Send me information about leaving the Order a bequest
- ☐ Please remove me from your mailing list.

Donations will be allocated to projects as requested by the donor. However if the needs of a project have already been met, we will allocate funds to another Order of Malta charitable activity.

Name

Address

State Postcode Telephone

Please find enclosed a Cheque/ Money Order (payable to 'The Order of Malta') for \$ or;

Please debit my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency ☐ Once only ☐ Monthly Card Type ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date Cardholder name

Signature