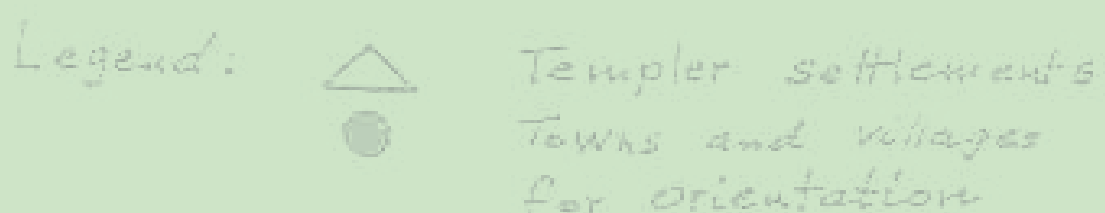


# LOCATION OF THE FORMER TEMPLAR SETTLEMENTS IN PALESTINE

# The Templar Journey

## FABRIC OF SOCIETY

The story of the Templar Journey Tapestry, a mural wall-hanging depicting in three panels 150 years of Templar history; from vision to conception, from the design to production, from start to finish a community supported project.



A Temple Society Australia Publication produced to supplement the Templer Journey Tapestry Wall-hanging with details of development and construction of the project and on the history of the Society and its community oriented philosophy.

in the City of Knox 2007

# The Templer Journey

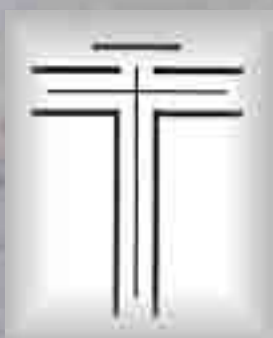
## Fabric of Society

This is a tapestry telling the turbulent story of a religious group once known as the Friends of Jerusalem, who began their mission to prepare for the establishment of the Kingdom of God in the Holy Land when they formed the *Deutsche Tempel*, or Temple Society, at Kirschenhardthof in Germany in 1861. Repeatedly uprooted, and displaced by war, they ended up in Australia as the 'Temple Society Australia'.

The story is told in a wall-hanging depicting the highlights of a religious journey across five continents: Europe, Asia, America, Africa and Australia, straddling three centuries.

Grateful acknowledgement is made for the support of the project from

- the City of Knox in a generous financial grant over three years
- Anne Eckstein, MLA for Ferntree Gully, Victoria
- the Temple Society Australia for their encouragement
- the Temple Society Heritage Group and
- the many volunteers who gave freely of their time and expertise



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

The story of the Templer Journey Tapestry, a mural wall-hanging depicting in three panels 150 years of Templer history; from vision to conception, from the design to production, from start to finish . . . . .	1	Sarona . . . . .	41
a community supported project. . . . .	1	<b>Right from the Start</b> , . . . . .	41
<b>TABLE OF ILLUSTRATIONS</b> . . . . .	<b>5</b>	<i>Sarona Heritage</i> . . . . .	41
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> . . . . .	<b>6</b>	Jerusalem . . . . .	42
The Start of our Wall-hanging Project . . . . .	6	Wilhelma . . . . .	42
The Grant . . . . .	7	<i>The War Years</i> . . . . .	42
<i>Project Aim:</i> . . . . .	7	<i>The Exodus</i> . . . . .	42
<i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> . . . . .	7	<i>Tatura</i> . . . . .	43
<i>Partnership Agreement</i> . . . . .	7	A Journey to the End of the World . . . . .	43
<i>The Templer Community</i> . . . . .	7	Freedom in Australia and Germany . . . . .	44
<b>CONCEPT AND DESIGN</b> . . . . .	<b>9</b>	<i>Building Communities again</i> . . . . .	44
<i>Concept and Design</i> . . . . .	9	<i>Boronia Hall</i> . . . . .	44
<i>Project Coordinator</i> . . . . .	10	<i>Bayswater Hall</i> . . . . .	45
<i>Steering Committee Members</i> . . . . .	10	<i>Bentleigh Hall and Office</i> . . . . .	45
<i>Concept Group Members</i> . . . . .	10	<i>Tabulam and Templer Homes for the Aged</i> . . . . .	46
<i>Design Group Members</i> . . . . .	10	<i>Templer Village</i> . . . . .	46
<i>Project Coordinator Functions</i> . . . . .	10	<i>ROSA, the Templer Community Bus</i> . . . . .	47
<i>Steering Committee Function</i> . . . . .	10	<i>The Knox Bike Tracks</i> . . . . .	47
<i>Concept Group Function</i> . . . . .	10	<i>Germany</i> . . . . .	47
<i>Design Group Function</i> . . . . .	10	<i>The Community Chapel</i> . . . . .	48
<b>WORKSHOPS</b> . . . . .	<b>15</b>	<b>THE FABRIC OF THE SOCIETY</b> . . . . .	<b>49</b>
The Workshops on 16 October and 6 November 2004 . . . . .	16	<i>A Religious Perspective (2000)</i> . . . . .	49
<i>Lesley Uren</i> . . . . .	16	<i>Preface</i> . . . . .	49
The Workshop on 4 June 2005 . . . . .	18	<i>Identity</i> . . . . .	49
The Workshop on 4 June 2005 . . . . .	19	<i>Beliefs</i> . . . . .	49
<i>Robert Capes</i> . . . . .	19	<i>Kingdom of God</i> . . . . .	50
The Embroidery Workshops on 13 and 27 July 2005 . . . . .	20	<i>Mankind</i> . . . . .	50
The Workshops on 12 & 25 November 2005 . . . . .	21	<i>The Bible</i> . . . . .	50
The Workshop on March 2006 . . . . .	22	<i>Community</i> . . . . .	51
<i>Mandy Ginsberg</i> . . . . .	22	<i>Practical Concerns</i> . . . . .	51
Workshop 1 April 2006 . . . . .	23	<i>Sources and further Reading</i> . . . . .	51
<b>WORK IN PROGRESS</b> . . . . .	<b>24</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> . . . . .	<b>52</b>
Sommerfest 2005 Display . . . . .	25	<b>APPENDICES</b> . . . . .	<b>53</b>
The Sommerfest 2006 Progress Display . . . . .	26	Appendix A . . . . .	53
Working Bees in the Bayswater Hall . . . . .	27	<i>Results from Sommerfest Survey:</i> . . . . .	53
<i>Workshops starting in April 2006</i> . . . . .	27	Appendix B . . . . .	54
Open Day at the Bayswater Chapel . . . . .	28	<i>Promotional Publications</i> . . . . .	54
9/9/2007 at the Melbourne Immigration Museum . . . . .	29	<i>In the Templer Record</i> . . . . .	54
<i>Workshops starting in April 2006</i> . . . . .	27	<i>In the Warte des Tempels</i> . . . . .	54
<b>THE TEMPLER TAPESTRY</b> . . . . .	<b>32</b>	Appendix C . . . . .	54
<i>The sketches for the individual panels</i> . . . . .	32	<i>Material used in the Project</i> . . . . .	54
<i>What the finished product looks like</i> . . . . .	32	Appendix D . . . . .	55
<i>What the finished product looks like</i> . . . . .	33	<i>Annual Reports Stage 1</i> . . . . .	55
<i>The sketches for the individual panels</i> . . . . .	33	<i>Project Co-ordinator:</i> . . . . .	55
Opening Day – Commissioning . . . . .	34	<i>Steering Committee</i> . . . . .	55
Left Hand Panel – Early Days . . . . .	35	<i>Concept Group</i> . . . . .	55
Centre Panel – Palestine . . . . .	36	Appendix E . . . . .	56
Right Hand Panel – Australia . . . . .	37	<i>People and their Projects</i> . . . . .	56
<b>THE TEMPLER JOURNEY</b> . . . . .	<b>38</b>		
The Background . . . . .	39		
<i>A Turbulent Beginning</i> . . . . .	39		
<i>Templer Communities around the world</i> . . . . .	39		
<i>The first settlements in Palestine</i> . . . . .	40		
<i>Haifa</i> . . . . .	40		
<i>Jaffa</i> . . . . .	41		

# TABLE OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Templer Community Chapel Bayswater . . . . .	6	Opening day 7 September 1957 . . . . .	44
Templer Communities Emblems . . . . .	6	Boronia Hall, the first Community Centre . . . . .	44
Knox City Motto – Towards New Horizons . . . . .	7	Two views of the Bayswater Hall . . . . .	45
Irene Bouzo at the white-board planning the project . . . . .	9	The Bentleigh Head Office of the TSA . . . . .	45
Irene, Traude and Helga selecting material . . . . .	9	The Sydney Templer Church Hall . . . . .	45
Helga Jürgensen, Project Coordinator . . . . .	10	Two views of the "Altersheim" complex . . . . .	46
Erika Herrmann . . . . .	10	TTHA, showing the new Otto Löbert Wing . . . . .	46
Mark Herrmann at the whiteboard . . . . .	10	Street Scene in the Templer Village . . . . .	46
Traude, Renate, Gisela, Mark and Irene . . . . .	10	ROSA, the Templer community bus . . . . .	47
Preliminary Section Sketches . . . . .	11	The Opperman statue in Knox City . . . . .	47
Experimenting with samples and layout . . . . .	12	Kirschenhardthof community complex . . . . .	47
Helga with Ingeborg (above) and Gisela (below) . . . . .	12	Two views of the TGD Gemeindezentrum . . . . .	47
Petra, Erika, Birgit and Gisela discussing arrangements . . . . .	13	The Templer Chapel in Bayswater . . . . .	48
Birgit Verhagen and Petra Murrhiy . . . . .	13	Google View of the TSA complex in Bayswater . . . . .	48
Helga featured in the KNOX NEWS . . . . .	13		
Traude, Lesley and Helga . . . . .	14		
Hundreds of emblems and samplers . . . . .	14		
The design for the third panel takes shape . . . . .	14		
Lesley Uren, an experienced Textile Consultant . . . . .	16		
A room full of work stations and workers . . . . .	17		
Getting the hang of it . . . . .	17		
Grandmother lending a hand . . . . .	17		
Bridging generations . . . . .	17		
Lesley and the art of Felt Making . . . . .	18		
Robert Capes with <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> . . . . .	19		
Participants trying out the various techniques . . . . .	19		
Creative embroidering and prized artwork . . . . .	19		
Marianne Herrmann and Erika English . . . . .	19		
Designs on T-shirt printing paper . . . . .	20		
Creative machine embroidery . . . . .	21		
Flowers, fruit and vegetables for the tapestry border . . . . .	21		
Mandy Ginsberg - Textile Artist . . . . .	22		
Focussing on trees and bark . . . . .	23		
Group posing in front of the design sheets . . . . .	25		
Display at the Templer Sommerfest in Bayswater . . . . .	26		
Putting newly acquired skills into practice . . . . .	27		
Anne Eckstein, Local MP . . . . .	28		
Gisela Sawatzky pointing out the details . . . . .	28		
Hulda Wagner and Isolde Ruff . . . . .	28		
Mark Herrmann addressing the guests . . . . .	28		
The Templer Tapestry Display . . . . .	29		
Entertainment in the Courtyard . . . . .	29		
The Templer Triptych Tapestry in September 2007 . . . . .	30		
Boronia Segment . . . . .	30		
Some of the 3000 Visitors . . . . .	30		
Bentleigh Segment . . . . .	30		
The Templer Section . . . . .	30		
The Wagner Foundry in Jaffa . . . . .	41		
Templer Settlements . . . . .	41		
The Schoolhouse in Wilhelma . . . . .	42		
Internment in Helouan and Sidi Bishr . . . . .	42		
Shipping oranges from the Jaffa harbour . . . . .	42		
Tent camp 'Golden Sands' in Famagusta . . . . .	42		
Rephaim /Jerusalem . . . . .	42		
Aerial Photo of Camp 3 Tatura . . . . .	43		
Tatura Hand-crafted Items . . . . .	43		
The Templer office in East Malvern . . . . .	44		



# INTRODUCTION



Templer Community Chapel Bayswater

## The Start of our Wall-hanging Project

### The Templer Journey – Fabric of Society

During many meetings of the Community Chapel Building Committee, it was regularly remarked that it was necessary to find ways for the Templer Community to contribute to the construction project. This was seen as important to provide members with an enhanced sense of ownership. Given the complex design and specialised structure, such opportunities were proving difficult to identify.

A number of tradespeople and certain professionals associated with the Temple Society Australia were employed over the project's duration. Landscaping around the exterior of the building was completed by volunteers. Consideration was then given to some form of Community project for the Chapel, ideally involving the maximum number of members and friends.

A piece of artwork – such as a wall-hanging or mural, designed and created by Community members – was suggested. This broad idea met with some favour, but where would one begin on such an initiative? An opportunity presented itself through application for a Knox Council Community Development Grant. An application for funding towards the creation of a textile mural or embroidered wall-hanging depicting the history of the Templers in Knox was submitted which, to our collective amazement and delight, was approved.

Significant funding was allocated for the first year of the three-year project (total budget: over \$18,000) by the City of Knox. Now the hard work would really begin. A steering committee was formed with initial meetings discussing what lay ahead and how best to tackle it. Slowly the pieces began to fall into place, the concept drew breath and the *Templer Journey – Fabric of Society* was on its way.

Mark Herrmann

Until 2000 it had been a Templer tradition to build multi-purpose halls wherever they settled. In the late 1990s it was decided to build a chapel in Bayswater. This was a real break from our previous tradition. An opportunity to involve the community in this building presented itself through an application of a Knox Council Community Development Grant. We were fortunate to succeed with our application and so our partnership with the City of Knox commenced.

It was decided to plan for a triptych or three-panel work.

The name chosen for the wall-hanging was:

### *The Templer Journey – Fabric of Society*

with the launch proposed for March 2007



Templer Communities Emblems

# The Grant

## The Grant

(for details refer to archives)

On ..... the Bayswater-Boronia Templer Community applied to the Knox City Council for a three-year project grant to facilitate the design and construction of a wall-hanging for the Templer Chapel, which would involve the residents of the City of Knox in general and Templers and the residents of the Tabulam and Templer Homes for the Aged in particular.

The application was successful, and on 14.3.2004 Elisabeth Wagner, Chairperson of the Community, signed the agreement for the first year.

### Project Aim:

- To promote the unique story of German-speaking Templers and their establishment in Knox over 50 years ago and subsequent infrastructure developments.
- to create an enhanced sense of belonging for the Templer Community that celebrates their cultural diversity of the Templer presence in Knox.

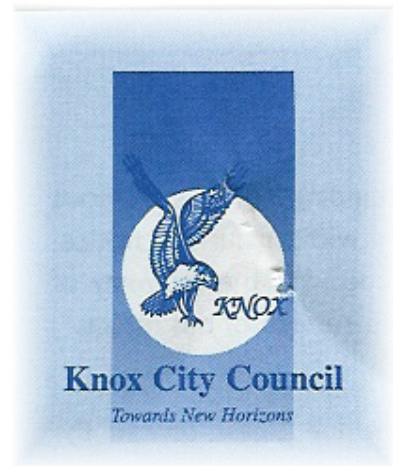
### Anticipated Outcome:

- Promoting and celebrating the Templer story to and with the wider Knox community;
- overcoming social isolation of elderly and people with ethnic background Templers;
- record a significant aspect of local history;
- Increase sense of involvement and 'Templer neighbourhood' revitalisation in Knox;
- Additional criteria: Applicants required in subsequent applications to demonstrate accessibility of viewing to the wider community of Knox;
- Evaluation requirements: Provide an audited financial report, forward report of project outcome to Council by 2 May 2005;
- Acknowledgement of Council funding: Bayswater-Boronia Templer Community undertakes to acknowledge Knox City Council as the funding source for the project in all promotional material, press releases and at events associated with the project;
- Council has the right to utilise the funded program for publicity purposes and Bayswater-Boronia Templer Community agree to extend all cooperation to Council to assist this purpose.

On..... at a ceremony at the Knox City Council, Elisabeth Wagner was presented with the first year's cheque

## PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

1. Parties: Knox City Council and Bayswater - Boronia Templer Community
2. Project Name: Textile Mural Depicting Templer History in City of Knox.
3. Payment provided \$6,120
4. Period of Agreement: 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2005.
5. Project Details:
  - a. Aim
  - b. Anticipated outcome
  - c. Additional criteria
6. Evaluation requirements:
7. Goods and Services Tax:
8. Acknowledgement of Council funding



Knox City Motto – Towards New Horizons

## THE TEMPLER COMMUNITY

Many people in the world care deeply about what they understand religious faith to be. For some it is a personal fulfilment, giving meaning to life and eternity, for others a search for the Holy Grail of Christendom, or the perfect community, the 'Kingdom of God on Earth'.

The Templer tapestry is a look at one such group of people who, driven by religious conviction and stubborn perseverance, tried to create ideal communities in Palestine.

Perhaps the idea was an unrealistic search for Utopia. Maybe the calling was. But wherever the Templers went in their repeated forced displacements to the four corners of the Earth, their creative striving for a better life left remarkable footprints on the land and in the social environment.

This tapestry is a collection of memories and memorabilia that shows how their journey from Swabia and the Black Forest in the 19th and 20th centuries wove together the fabric of the Temple Society. They were farmers, tradesmen and teachers with one thing in common: they believed that

a sound, harmonious community life

**is the basis of**

**a good society.**