

BRISBANE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE
President's Annual Report, Oct 1 2017 – 30 Sep 2018

I am aware of the sadness you all feel at the passing of Carolyn Harrod. I know that strictly, her death in October doesn't fall in the year under review in this Report. But I cannot let today pass without referring to it, and to all the amazing work Carolyn did for TOS. She will be fondly remembered for many years to come. Our condolences go to her husband Geoff.

The year ended September 2018 was a successful one for BTOS. However, in the short time that I have been President/Coordinator, credit goes more to others especially our Vice-President (now in 2019 Treasurer) Dianne Manning, and Secretary Susannah Mason, while behind the scenes, I have been greatly assisted by Past-President, Janet Harding.

Our year began with the annual TOS appeal to the AGM of the Brisbane Theosophical Society. The TS very kindly matches what we collect dollar-for-dollar and in 2017 the total came to \$430. As the year progressed, our major activities included two classical concerts, held in November 2017 and April 2018, by the same players that entertained members at the Brisbane TS Convention.

In February, a group of us enjoyed an excursion to the Margaret Olley gallery in Murwillumbah, NSW. In July, one of our long-time members gave an Art Workshop, attended and enjoyed by a number of members and friends. These activities have an important social role, as well as fund-raising. I gave another talk, this time on Service, to the Brisbane TS in August. I think it is important to realise that service, freely and willingly given, is an important part of the theosophical journey. It isn't something separate, as it is seen to be so often. During the year also, the Committee held the usual series of business and planning meetings. These are so important in enabling our work to go forward.

In all, our efforts during the accounting year to September 30 2018, enabled us to donate a total of \$7,650 to various projects. These included our National Projects (Pakistan Home Schools, Golden Link College in the Philippines and support for Syrian refugees through TOS Italy). We also contributed to the UNHCR Rohingya refugee appeal.

Finally, I would like to thank all Brisbane members for their valuable contributions to our work. May our efforts continue into the coming year.

Brian Harding
8 December, 2018