



Australian T.O.S. Links

April 2012

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At our 2012 Annual General Meeting held on 24 Jan 2012 in Brisbane we farewelled Carolyn Harrod after seven years of dedicated service to TOS in Australia.

Carolyn brought a special kind of vibrancy and service par excellence to her role as national co-ordinator. Our sincere thanks to you Carolyn for your contribution. You have shown through your dedication to your role and willingness to assist what altruistic service truly means. Whilst Carolyn has retired from the co-ordinators role she will continue "in service" with TOS International and will remain as part of our team in the role of national treasurer. A special thanks to both Lynn Muller and Janet Scarabottolo who worked closely with Carolyn as secretary and treasurer.

A new period has begun I look forward to working with you in my new role as co-ordinator Marie Walton will assist as our secretary.

The role of the National TOS is:-

- giving an account of our various international welfare projects
- providing an efficient means of transferring funds from our various groups for international projects
- publishing a magazine 3 times a year
- keeping you up to date on what other TOS groups both nationally and internationally are supporting
- sharing of ideas for service so as we may all Live Theosophy
- building a nucleus of brotherhood

I look forward to working together in the theosophical spirit of love and service to all. Please feel free to communicate with me regarding any ideas that you have to further our TOS on tos.australia@gmail.com. Ideas and inspirations are meant to be shared and may possibly take our world forward.

Yours in service, Jean.



Changeover Carolyn & Jean

Theosophy as Service

An extract from Living Theosophy: John Algeo

Living Theosophy

To reach liberation enlightenment or salvation – which is health, wholeness, and holiness – three things are needed: study that we may learn, meditation that we may understand and service that we may come to Self Knowledge. We have here another of those great paradoxes of the spiritual life. To serve effectively, we must act out of an understanding that arises from meditating on our study of the great principles. But serving – living to benefit mankind by loving deeds – is the first step, not the third. It is the cause, not the result, of Self Knowledge.

What is Theosophical service? How do we live to benefit mankind? As there are many techniques of meditation, so too there are many avenues of service, and they are all good. But if we try to follow every possible form of meditation we will never understand anything. And if we try to walk every possible path of service, we will never get anywhere.

Theosophy is not just what we know or understand. It is what we do. It is how we live. But we can only do what we know and have made a part of ourselves. Thus living theosophically is a threefold process and a theosophy that is alive is a threefold thing. This requires study, meditation and service: study to discover the truths of the Ancient and Timeless Wisdom, meditation to internalise those truths by making them apart of our inmost nature and service to externalise the truths by applying them in the world around us.

We cannot live a dead theosophy- a Theosophy which exists only in books, which is static and unchanging, which is a museum piece from the 19th century. A Theosophy that is alive must reflect the needs of our time and must apply its timeless truths to those needs. If we are content to repeat the words others have spoken - however exalted those others maybe and however great their words – we do not foster Theosophy as a living growing thing; we

embalm it as an artefact. To live is to grow and change. The oak tree that that grows does



not cease to be an oak tree, the oak tree that does not grow withers and dies. A Theosophy that grows does not cease to be the Ancient Wisdom; a Theosophy that does not grow becomes a historical curiosity.

An Invitation

Invitation to attend TOS International Conference 24-26 Jul 2013 and the Theosophical Society of America Summer Gathering 19-23 Jul prior to our TOS Conference.

We are happy to announce that the TS and TOS in America have kindly agreed to host a three-day international TOS Workers' Conference from Wed 24 Jul to Fri 26 Jul 2013 at Olcott, National Centre in Wheaton, (Chicago) Illinois. TOS office-bearers and those with national or local levels are warmly invited to attend.

All are cordially invited to participate in the five-day Convention and Summer National Gathering of the TS in America immediately preceding the Conference, from 19-23 Jul. Participants will be actively involved throughout the TOS Conference.

Information about the programme and the cost of accommodation and meals will be provided in the new few months.

Service: School of The Wisdom

A heart-warming story from Blavatsky Lodge Member Lucille Ball. Lucille attended this year's School of The Wisdom at Adyar.

A visit was organised for the students of The School of The Wisdom to visit the HPB hostel for boys. The hostel houses and educates from 15-20 boys. These boys are either orphans or from very poor families whose families are unable to provide education. The hostel is situated in the Besant Gardens. The boys are given free board and lodging and they attend the Olcott School. They are also given parental care by the Warden and general guidance in studies and activities. In addition to the academic school program, their daily activities include yoga, meditation, exercise, games, prayer and listening to wholesome stories. The boys also do gardening work around the Hostel building.

During our visit I requested to see the bedrooms to know where/how the boys slept and I was told they slept directly on the floor, also many of the boys had cotton wool in their ears and I asked why? I was told that it was cold at night now in winter and they needed pillows, so when asking if they needed anything else we were informed that yes, they needed mattresses, mats to lay underneath, sheets and covers.

A donation was made from Cornelia Price from the UK who gave a substantial amount but not enough for everything required, so I organised a collection amongst the students of the School of The Wisdom. The donations came mainly from members from Argentina, Finland and Australia.

We were able to reach the target and Maithreya and Sunita of TOS Chennai were able to deliver our gifts just before the School of The Wisdom closed.

I was unfortunately not able to attend the delivery but happy to know everything was done and the boys appeared SO HAPPY!

They are absolutely gorgeous boys, so well educated and respectful and grateful and happy! It was a real pleasure to see those bright eyes and big smiles when little treats were handed to them on our first visit

A happy ending indeed.



When we work for the good of all –we cannot not succeed. - Deepak Chopra

Famine Relief Kenya

A report just in from Mrs Usha Sha the TOS convenor for Nairobi/ Kenya.

The bore hole being constructed for the villagers so they can have water to grow fruit and vegetables, has escalated in cost instead of costing usd7000 as predicted, it is now going to cost usd9650. What's more, the work has already started and is planned to take only ten days.

Usha continues - I am not writing to appeal to you for another donation because you are precisely the people who have already donated very generously indeed. I am writing just to say that if you happen to have more donations already in hand, could you please consider our project.

Our treasurer Carolyn Harrod has done just that & has made available another aud3000 This project will require our ongoing support, TOS encourages all groups to be mindful of this need when fundraising. A special thanks to the following lodges who have contributed recently and are partly responsible for the amount in question being transferred – Adelaide, Canberra and Sydney Lodges your efforts are much appreciated.

National Volunteers Week 14-20 May 2012

There are more than six million volunteers in Australia. These volunteers are essential to our society, and many charities would struggle to survive without the support of their volunteers. Please help pay a tribute to these volunteers in your lodges/groups to those who donate their time and energy to help others.

www.volunteeringaustralia.org

Animals Australia



Did you know that the very last battery hen has been freed from her cage in the UK? Sadly, Australian Governments are refusing to act. As you read this, sensitive hens are still locked in tiny cages, unable to spread their wings, many living in constant pain with broken bones.

These hens now have one of Australia's best voices behind them. Singer-songwriter **Missy Higgins** has joined forces with Animals Australia to help make battery cages history.

[Click here to hear Missy's powerful new radio ad.](#)

World Environment Day 05 Jun 2012

Ideas to initiate locally in our TOS groups

www.unep.org check the options A thru Z.

A - Act now Adopt as many eco-friendly lifestyle choices as you can and make them habits. Add it up. Our impact is exponential when the global chorus sings together.

B Bring a mug with you whenever you go for take-out beverages – **this is happening right now** at one of the popular coffee shops in Maroochydore you receive a \$ off the cost when you bring your own coffee mug, also if you return the brown paper bag (with the shops logo) to re-cycle you receive a \$ off your purchase.

TOS News: National

Reports From Our Local TOS Groups

Sunshine Coast:

Committed TOS worker Joyce Tozer reports that our year began with a healthy bank balance and we were then able to donate \$1500 to various causes. It was distributed as follows \$500 to National TOS towards the SEE project, Tanzanian Heart Babies and Education for women and girls in Pakistan. We also sent \$300 to New Zealand TS towards their Earthquake relief fund, \$300 to Queensland Red Cross following the flood crisis and similarly \$500 between 3 Animal rescue organisations who were dealing with a huge increase in both domestic and native animals in need following the floods.

Other fundraisers were our "Integral Theosophy" seminar which was organised together with the Sunshine Coast Lodge and a successful Garage Sale. Donations of 5-cent pieces amounted to \$385 this year - \$220 of which came from donations by members of a yoga group run by one of our TS members Myra Timmerman.

Not all our energies go into fund raising as we believe that physical service is equally if not more important. To that end some members travelled to Brisbane and distributed sandwiches and fruit to people stranded in cars due to the floods. We also participated in the annual working bee at Springbrook and members cooked at Springbrook for other events during the year. A small group took part in the annual Clean Up Australia' day in March.

One of our TOS members Karen Shakespeare will again travel to the remote village of Mblori in Kenya this year where she has been distributing mosquito nets to combat malaria. Karen travels via Nairobi where she purchases supplies for

the village and this year will meet with Nairobi. TOS Convenor Mrs Usha Sha.

Karen, right hand side is seen under receiving aud300 from TOS Co-ordinator Joyce Tozer-for her charity.



Melbourne:

Georgina Fode reports that during the year we had had few activities; however we continually raised awareness to the TOS Projects and Appeals. The yearly TOS Picnic in the Melbourne Botanical Garden in March 2011 was well attended; We held a Peace and Healing Meditation under the trees and also raised awareness on the Australian Conservation Foundation which TOS supports. On behalf of the Melbourne TOS a sincere thank you for the Booklet "Helping the Dying" which members sincerely appreciated.

Donations of \$460 were given to the Humane Society, Amnesty Int., and the Olcott School at TS India Over the year, I have attended the Mornington TS Peninsula Group who run a TOS function which supports TOS appeals with donations. A sincere thank you for the donations to the TOS by members & friends for the various TOS appeals during the year.

Membership Drive



White Lotus Day: 08 May

A tribute to Helena Petrovna Blavatsky
Her life espoused service. TO ALL.

TOS Donations 2012

Our treasurer Carolyn Harrod has asked that we hold off sending any donations until July 2012. Carolyn and her husband are travelling in Europe and return to Australia in Jul 2012.

**We make a living by what we get, but
we make a life by what we give.
Winston Churchill.**

Your Contacts:

National Co-ordinator- Jean Carroll
National Secretary- Marie Walton
National Treasurer- Carolyn Harrod

<http://australia.theoservice.org>
<http://international.theoservice.org>
tos.australia@gmail.com

TOS Membership Drive

Did you know that on checking the "stats" we have over one thousand members of the Theosophical Society in Australia, yet TOS membership is barely over one hundred?

Let us see if we can increase our membership and spread the good news to what TOS Australia & TOS International does for our communities.

Our work is much too important to be shared by such a few. Can you all please promote this in your local lodges?

If you are already a member of the Theosophical Society there is no additional cost to become a Member of TOS.

Some folks choose not to be members of the Theosophical Society and simply join TOS. The annual membership is a mere \$7.

If you would like to be on our mailing list i.e. electronically or by regular mail please contact me on either of the following addresses and I will add your name to our distribution list.

Electronic mail
tos.australia@gmail.com

Regular mail service
Kindly forward your name & address to;
Jean Carroll, 10 April Court,
Maroochydore 4558.