



## Australian T.O.S. Links April 2013

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### Your Coordinators Report

Our Theosophical World in Australia began with an amazing start this year with a very successful Annual Conference held in Melbourne. TOS members were well represented. It was a delight to exchange ideas, put faces to names and listen to the vibrancy and passion that was expressed as our TOS annual reports were read out. .. We all came away feeling enthusiastic for the work to be done, with an awareness of the individual responsibility that we all have in doing our part to help others less fortunate than ourselves. At our Annual General Meeting, our treasurer Carolyn Harrod proposed that this year we change directions slightly and assist a project being planned by the TOS in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India as part of their campaign to combat violence against women. This TOS group plans to put up ten huge billboards at USD350 each and are seeking donations for this

Carolyn also reports that our international Secretary of TOS, Diana Dunningham Chapotin has assured us that the Bhubaneswar TOS have an excellent track record in education and women's health. They had recently run a seminar on *Violence Against Women- Perspective and Solutions*.

In addition to our new project it was proposed and seconded that we have three international projects for 2013. These being:

- The four home schools in Pakistan
- The Kenyan village near Kitui
- The billboards campaign against violence to women in Bhubaneswar, India.

May we all look forward to continuing the ideas that our conference generated. Wishing you all a rewarding year of service.-Jean



**National Executive Committee at our AGM  
Travis James Secretary, Carolyn Harrod  
Treasurer and Jean Carroll Coordinator**



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### Yours stories TOS in Action

This is a story of reaching out into your community. Sent to us by Sunshine Coast Lodge member Carol Cattell.

Recently members of Tewantin Branch of the Sunshine Coast Lodge attended an afternoon to support TOS in a Zonta program to make up Birthing Kits to be sent to underdeveloped countries to support safe birth practices in these countries.

60 million women give birth each year with the assistants of a traditional Birth Attendant, some have no assistance at all, and these women really need a birthing kit.

Over 4000 traditional birth attendants and village health workers have been trained in hygiene, nutrition and midwifery in Vietnam and Kenya through funded training programs by Zonta.

### What is a Birthing Kit?



**Contents of a birthing kit**  
1m x 1m plastic sheet for the mother to lie on  
A piece of soap  
2 gloves  
3 gauze squares  
3 cord ties or 2 clamps  
Sterile scalpel blade.

All contained in a small press seal plastic bag.



### TOS Sunshine Coast Members at a Working Bee in their local community

When making up these kits I could not help but think of the women who would be giving birth under these conditions. It certainly made me reflect on how fortunate I was, having given birth in sterile hospital conditions.

The Zonta programs do a wonderful job in seeing that women in these underdeveloped countries are given help to survive in their primitive conditions.

It is heart warming to see Community Groups coming together to support each other in service to our larger Global Community. I feel privileged to have been part of this service to support the TOS on this day

**Zonta International** is a worldwide organisation of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women through service and advocacy.

TOS encourages all groups to investigate what groups we can work with in our community

[www.zonta.org.au](http://www.zonta.org.au)



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### What's On in Our TOS World USA & Indonesia

There are two exciting international events for TOS and TS members to attend this year. One near Chicago USA and one on the beautiful Indonesian island of Bali.

#### **TOS Conference in USA 23-27 Jul 2013**

It's not too late to join our TOS conference at the American Headquarters near **Chicago**, immediately preceding the TS Conference, 19-23 Jul. 2013. – All details were published in our previous TOS Links or log on at <http://international.theoservice.org/news/201211-conference-update.html>



**TOS sponsored  
group to attend  
Indo Pacific  
Conference Bali  
01-06 Nov 2013**

**TOS National is inviting Expressions of Interest from our members to attend the Indo-Pacific Triennial Conference in Bali from 01 06 Nov 2013.**

If you would like to attend the conference with options(s) to extend your stay at Ubud for 4 nts plus an optional side trip to visit the Buddhist temples at Borobudur in central Java, please contact your TOS state rep and register your interest.

If we can get sufficient numbers TOS National will be able to get a competitive quote for the two options, plus a return group airfare from the east coast cities – Brisbane, Melbourne & Sydney.

The Conference will be hosted by the Indonesian Section. Two much loved and well-known guest speakers in Dr Ravi Ravindra from Canada and Vicente Hao Chin Jr from the Philippines will be among the distinguished speakers from many of the Indo-Pacific Sections.

**Convention Costs: Rp 3,850,000 (approx. US \$400.00)** the costs includes: Twin shared accommodation: Breakfast, lunch and refreshments during the conference: Wifi access from room: Coffee and tea making facilities: 2 bottles of mineral water in your room daily: Dinner on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Nov

As there are a lot of quality dining establishments outside the hotel area we will be eating out on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the venue of our choice. There will be an outing on one of the days (4<sup>th</sup>) arranged by the Indonesian Section where we will visit some of the places of spiritual significance on the Island of Bali. There will be an extra cost for this outing.

For each booking of the extended option(s) our National TOS will receive a donation of \$10 per booking from the tour operator towards our national projects. Interested? - Please contact your state TOS representative for details of the packages. The costing is not yet available. This is an expression of interest only to enable us to get an approximate number of participants wishing to join – the first step in getting an accurate costing.



Ubud - Bali





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April 2013**

**.Pictures from our AGM**

Pictures courtesy Tony Buzek with gratitude.



**Bev Parker National & Cecelia Novy Blavatsky**



**Melbourne Delegates**



**Tony & Pam-Meli Witheridge Perth**



**Janice Scarabottolo & Henny Fokker Canberra**



**Queensland Delegates**



**Blavatsky & Hobart Delegates**



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### Reports from our Local TOS Groups

#### **Brisbane: Tina Fiedler**

Like previous years our dedicated members worked hard to uphold the legacy of our founder, Annie Besant. I would like to acknowledge with humble gratitude, the commitment and selfless service displayed by my committee. Our activities in the past year were executed by both teamwork and individual effort.

#### **Projects for the year included:-**

A working Bee at Springbrook  
Quarterly stalls home made products, books and trash and treasure items  
Supporting homeless women by supplying the necessary items to start a household  
Providing food parcels to a women's shelter  
Donating handmade quilts to homeless people  
Selling a CD/Book on meditation  
A Cinema event

Funds raised through well supported events were invested in the National TOS projects (Home literacy program/Mobility aids project/Golden Links College, as well as Hamlyn Fistula Project & the Fred Hollows Foundation. In total we donated \$7280 in the last financial year.

In closing I would like to pay tribute with the greatest respect and admiration to my team who have diligently offered their support in the service of a greater good.



**Springbrook Education & Retreat Centre**

#### **Blavatsky, Sydney: Richard Larkin**

September 2011 to August 2012 has been another successful and interesting year for the TOS, Sydney. We have hosted a year of very interesting monthly talks focusing on comparative spirituality, as well as practical compassion such as the work of the Exodus Foundation in Australia and the Golden Links College in the Philippines.

The major donations raised this year went to Exodus Foundation, TOS Pakistan Education Fund, Sri Narayana Orphanage, Amnesty International and Olcott School. Smaller amounts were also given to organisations such as The Guide Dogs Association of NSW/ACT, Barnardos, Prisoners Aid, HPB Hostel and the Animal Hospital at Adyar.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have assisted in the work of the TOS, Sydney. Firstly to the speakers who have supported our work with their fascinating talks each month. Also Wendy in Adyar Library for the surplus books that she has given us during the year for our monthly book sales. A special thanks to Ana Purumian for her help in organising the book sale. Their support has made the book sales a great contribution to our work.

A special thanks to my fellow honorary committee members: Vice President Richard Mortensen, Treasurer Lucille Crocker, Assistant Treasurer Ly Ngoc Mai, Secretary John Spraggon and committee members Betty Olling and Felicity Rogers.

Another thank you for the members of Blavatsky Lodge, in particular Lodge President Stephen McDonald, the Executive Committee and Louise Proudman of the Lodge Office and all those who have assisted us in so many ways throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has attended our Saturday afternoon meetings. Their interest has made these meetings the success that they are. I hope to bring all of our supporters another year of interesting and thought provoking talks in the future.

**Better remain silent, better not even think, if you are not prepared to act: Annie Besant**





## Australian T.O.S. Links

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#### Animals Australia

**Are you prepared to help the plight of animals in Australia?** If so, here is how you can help - suggest to your local coordinator that your group become a member of this very worthwhile cause. For those of you not on the internet Annual Membership ranges from \$18-\$29 or a one off donation.

Please click on this link (under) and review the year from Animals Australia?

**We are living in a defining age. Never before in our country's history has the plight of animals been at the centre of public and political debate. Some of the cruelty we have exposed this year was enough to break hearts. But our campaigns on behalf of animals have also [opened hearts](#) — and [awakened minds](#). As an Animals Australia supporter, you are directly underpinning the groundswell that is helping to give animals the respect and recognition that they so desperately need and deserve.**

#### Being a voice for animals

Animals, like us, are emotional beings. Their desire to be free from suffering is not unlike our own. Yet unlike us, they cannot vote, object, or speak out against violence — making animals among the most exploited, and in need of our protection. It is up to us to be their voice. Please join us today to help create a kinder world for all animals.

**A Guide to Compassionate Living: How to help animals in everyday choices as follows:-**  
**In the Supermarket.** The humble act of grocery shopping provides the single greatest opportunity to vote against animal cruelty. Every time you shop, there are important decisions to make. [Factory farms](#) still exist because unwitting shoppers purchase their products

If you disagree with confining intelligent pigs in crates so small they can't turn around; or performing surgical procedures on animals without pain relief, then the choice is simple: join the growing number of Australians who **refuse to buy factory-farmed products**.

**Find the vegetarian section** of the supermarket and try out some of the new products that are reaching the Australian market such as mock mince, pig-free 'bacon' and veggie roasts. Opting for cruelty-free [vegetarian alternatives](#) is the single best way to ensure that farm animals — that have been *excluded* from critical animal cruelty laws — are protected from abuse.

**Think twice about eggs.** It's becoming common knowledge that most [egg-laying hens](#) are forced to spend their short lives crammed inside battery cages where they cannot even stretch their wings. **Avoiding cage eggs is crucial**, but there's more to this story: laying hens in *all* production systems are killed when their egg production wanes — years before their natural life expectancy — resulting in millions of chicks being hatched each year to replace them. Only female chicks are required for egg production, which means millions of unwanted male chicks are gassed or ground up alive as "waste products" of the egg industry.

#### Your contacts

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