



Australian T.O.S. Links

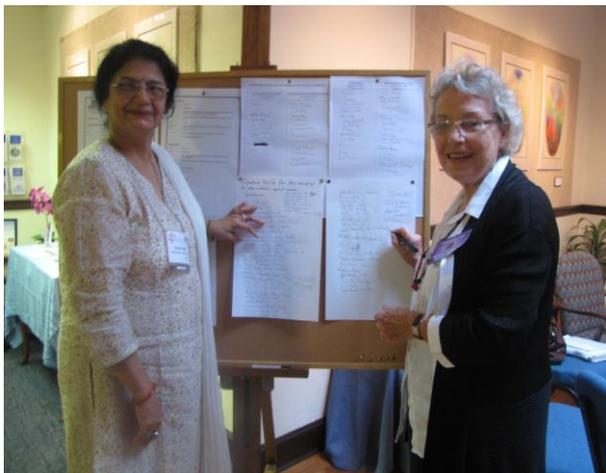
September 2013

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Coordinators Report

Welcome to our spring issue of TOS Links. This copy features a report on the 3rd International TOS Workers' Conference at Olcott the headquarters of the Theosophical Society in the United States.

Four of our TOS members from Australia attended. These were our National Treasurer Carolyn Harrod from Brisbane, Dorothy Bell from the Mornington Peninsula, Dianne Manning from Brisbane and Jean Carroll National Coordinator from the Sunshine Coast.

It was a truly inspiring few days. I found it particularly rewarding to meet face to face those members that are recipient of donations from TOS Australia. I met Usha Sha one of the architects of the Kenyan Water Bore programme. This year our donations are going to promote self-sufficiency at Kitui village. I also met with Brother Jatin Patowary, a very caring elder who is involved in the Assam Mobility programme, as well I met with Dr Deepa Padhi a prime mover in the billboards Against Violence to Women. I signed her pledge on behalf of TOS Australia. These signatures are to be presented to local politicians in Bhubaneswar, the capitol city of the state of Odisha. All of the above members expressed heartfelt thanks for our support.

Our International Secretary Diana Dunningham Chapotin and our Carolyn Harrod are to be congratulated on their passion, energy and commitment that resulted in a first class event
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**Did you know that the Theosophical Order of
Service was first named**

**The Theosophical Society Order of Service
by Annie Besant in 1908**



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TOS in Action Your stories

[Love Immersion Golden Links College Style - Michelle Mitchell, National Member](#)

The wondrous feeling of a warm, scented bath with transcendent music playing - the relaxation and the feeling of safety, that nothing else matters; talking with a friend who knows you well and treasures the amazing things about you; the joy that is felt after a walk in nature and the appreciation that occurs when surrounded by all things natural. Experiences that touch one's soul and enable one to have human understanding are the precious moments in life that make it all worthwhile for a person.

I would like to add an experience to this list - an experience that provided me with profound joy. I have the bonus of re-living the memory whenever I want to, a feeling of extreme joy all over again. This experience occurred when I spent a few weeks working at The TOS Golden Link College in The Philippines in 2012.

The idea to go to The Philippines was born when I attended the TS World Convention in Rome in 2009. It was there that I met Gerard Brennan (Australian high school teacher), Vic Hao Chin and Rekha Namar (Golden Link College in The Philippines). I spoke at length with Gerard about his experience of working (he travels to GLC each year in Australian school holidays) at GLC, and was amazed and impressed at what he said about the depth of his experience, and how he described the students at GLC. It sounded like nothing I had seen in Australia or Australian schools. My work has given me the privilege of working with children from all backgrounds in Australia.

I made a silent promise to myself to go there, and I mentioned to Vic and Rekha that I had an interest in helping by teaching at GLC. Just three years

later, I had made several decisions in my life – the main scope was to live a life of service and to no longer work for an expected salary. Little did I know that the rewards of teaching at GLC would hold rewards in a category that I can describe as deeply satisfying - . the type of satisfaction that felt like I had been immersed in love. The staff at GLC understand that education is not only about what a child may need in the outer world (career) to get by as an adult, they know what it is to teach from their inner world - of love and peace, directly to a child's inner world. (Several of the teachers were previous students at GLC)



Michelle & Vicente Hao Chin

When a child learns from an adult in this way, the results that I observed were truly profound. Students at GLC are gentle, fun and compassionate, aware and very 'switched on'. They welcomed me so very warmly, and gently received and respected anything that I suggested to them. Each time that a student at GLC walks by an adult in the school, they become present to them. They slow their walks, gain eye contact, smile, and hold out their hand to the adult (to hold, or shake, in greeting). They greet their teachers with love and respect and they are not in a hurry to move away from the connection that they have created. Each time that a student did this with me, it was as if we created a circle of love and reciprocal positive regard of each other.



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Imagine doing this several dozen (or hundred) times per day, each school day - the momentum of the connection that was created each time a student or a teacher greeted me in this way, had me gliding in love with each step that I took.

My experience of August 2012 at GLC touched my soul in a way that I describe as "love immersion". The memories, the warmth, my gratitude for the experience - will always be with my most treasured memories.

As I write this, I see the beautiful smiling faces of the teachers and their students - their gentle warm hands and their love in my heart.

Reports from our Local TOS Groups – Melbourne

The TOS in Melbourne had a quiet year, however, we were still engaged in raising awareness to the various work of the TOS and especially for the TOS national projects in Australia. We now have secured activities for Saturdays at the TS in Melbourne. This year we sent out to all our members the following, yearly reports from both the National Coordinator, and the Melbourne TOS. The booklet "Helping the Dying" "Theosophical Society and the United Nations brochure" all being gratefully received.

The yearly TOS Picnic was held in the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, with fewer members attended than previous years.

We continued to display on the TOS Notice Board in the TS Library and the TS Tea Room all the latest TOS News and TOS Newsletters. A few new people joined the National TOS from our group and we gave them all a very warm welcome. We sent \$100 to the National TOS for membership subscriptions. This year we supported the Animals Australia Free Range Hen Eggs project. Also, the TOS in Bengal with a \$200 donation for their school projects.

A project to raise funds and awareness of the TOS was the production of TOS bookmarks. This was a combined effort by TOS members with Gloria Keh and Georgina Fode. The generous gift for the printing of the 80 bookmarks was funded by Gloria. We did sell quite a few of these at the TOS National AGM. All proceeds going to National TOS. Gloria Keh this year has regularly donated to TOS Melbourne. The money received from the sales of her published children books and notebooks sold at the Melbourne TS Bookshop both go to TOS National. We sincerely thank Gloria for her loyal and continual effort, generosity and support of the TOS. I attend the Mornington Peninsular TOS group where they meet regularly, donations raised are sent to National TOS.

On behalf of Melbourne TOS we would like to sincerely thank our National Co-ordinator and her team for the work and continual support. Once again a kind thank you to all members and friends for their interest and support of TOS. A special thank you to Edward Sinclair for his dedication and the support as our Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for TOS Melbourne. I look forward to working together towards our shared goals throughout 2013. May our work be guided by these words from Dr Annie Besant - The life of the Spirit consists in giving continually



Article by Georgina Fode TOS Melbourne



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Third International TOS Workers' Conference, 2013

On the first day of the Theosophical Society conference, prior to our TOS conference, we were given a guided tour of the beautiful grounds followed by an inspection of the Olcott building. We were all impressed with the beautiful artwork that embraced the upper walls of the striking entrance hall. American members of TS & TOS were especially friendly and welcoming; this continued during both conferences where a great feeling of spiritual unity developed.



The evening opening ceremony of the TOS conference laid the groundwork for the work ahead. All delegates were asked to contribute to our Five Year Plan. Our International Vice President Brother Mahendra P.Singhai, our International Secretary Diana Dunningham Chapotin, Tim Boyd National President TSA, Nancy Secrest National President of TOS USA all affectionately welcomed delegates. Carolyn Harrod introduced the speakers and inspired us with her enthusiasm for action and consultation ahead. Messages of welcome were read from the International President Radha Burnier and from Joy Mills.

Vicente Hao Chin Jr. commenced the idea of projection into the future with an innovative and futuristic talk on The TOS one hundred years from now.



Vic suggested that if TOS became a registered charity in the future, our annual budget could expand greatly with the result that we may possibly build many more transformation style schools worldwide, similar to the Golden Links Schools and College in the Philippines. He had well researched his facts with models and comparisons with a business plan for the future.

Carolyn Harrod in her presentation of the international web site inspired us to utilise the many wonderful resources available. These included a host of ideas just waiting to be "clicked" on to make our roles easier.

www.international.theoservice.org

Each delegate received electronic documents before arriving at the conference (a) Principles of Organisation which was a result of the previous five-year plan. (b) A Plan of Action again from the previous five years showing what had been achieved and enabled us to make known what to expect for the upcoming conference.



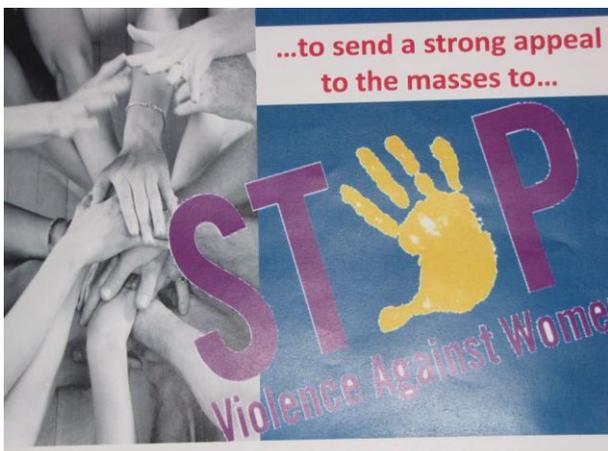
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Thus, we began our plenary sessions - the first session gave a report on what has been achieved from the plan of action 2008-2013. In the second session we split into small groups and planned for the next five years 2014-2018. There were amazing results from this effort. These were collated and presented to each representative from the various countries to further discuss and to decide on what was appropriate for their national needs.

To encourage the decision making to be universal the results of the second plenary sessions, plus a copy of the International Handbook has now been sent to each of our nine state coordinators. They will distribute this information down so each TOS member for his or her suggestions. I hope you will all contribute to this futuristic plan of action. We are indeed fortunate to contribute.

Service:

Each delegate attending the conference was asked to bring a poster to display the service activities in their country. Delegates then spoke on these projects. Some countries raised funds to support TOS International projects, others reached out into their local communities. There was much interest in the recently formed Hungarian TOS group. Their logo "It means not tomorrow – we are doing today what we have to do today". The Indian TOS poster featured photos of their recent high profile launch of their billboards Against Stopping Violence to Women.



Above gives scope of the size and impact of the billboards

The Australian poster theme was "Transformation through Service" and featured a variety of photos of our international programmes and of events that reach out into our local communities.





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[Service at the TS conference](#) which was held prior to our TOS event. International delegates hosted a supper featuring food from their local country. Australian macadamia nuts, handmade ginger snaps, bush chutneys and chocolate covered ginger were our gifts to the TSA supper.



[Sincere thanks for a futuristic and inspiring conference Carolyn Harrod Australia and Diana Dunningham Chapotin our International Secretary from France.](#)

[An unusual form of Service](#) contributed to a fun evening. The National President of TOS America Nancy Secret had grown her hair over two years for this event. Her beautiful thick hair was cut short as a gift of love to the American Locks of Love organization. They provide wigs for people that have lost their hair through illness. Here is the happy result.



[The Service of Healing](#) Coordinator of the TOS healing network, Diane Eisenberg, who conducts the ritual at Olcott every Wednesday, invited us to attend a meeting during our stay. . A truly beautiful brochure offering the services of the American healing network has just been produced. It explains the services offered and invites TOS members and friends from anywhere in the world to write in for help for themselves or others. You can [read the brochure](#)

Your contacts

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