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### Co-ordinators report

Welcome everyone to our second publication for the year. TOS workers continue their efforts both nationally and internationally to assist those in need.

Carolyn Harrod our hard working national treasurer has recently resigned from working on the International TOS website team after eight years of dedicated service. Carolyn's legacy includes many milestones for TOS. Developing the TOS Handbook, extending the Five Year Strategic Plan for TOS members worldwide. Along with her husband Geoffrey Harrod and Diana our ex-international secretary designed the TOS international e-newsletter. The success of the International TOS Conference held at Olcott in 2013 was for the most part due to Carolyn's energetic and dynamic personality coupled with a professional approach to all matters. I witnessed first-hand her multi-tasking skills. Carolyn will be sorely missed on the international team. It is fortunate for TOS Australia as Carolyn is staying on in her role as treasurer and contributing to our management team. Well done Carolyn you inspire us as an example of living a theosophical life.

At the annual Australian TS section *School of Theosophy* held at Springbrook in April this year, TOS management worked as a catering team providing meals for the week long event. Carolyn Harrod our treasurer, Geoffrey Harrod our web-master and Jean Carroll national coordinator worked together as a team preparing meals for our TS members

### Report from Qandeel Schools Pakistan

Mr Mushtaq Ali Jindani, from Council of Management of TOS Pakistan recently sent a letter of gratitude to TOS Australia, Italy and New Zealand for their support for the Qandeel home schools.

TOS Australia supports four schools and thirty-one scholarships on an annual basis. These home schools are situated in economically depressed areas of

Karachi. TOS Pakistan has developed a system of education that leads children to excellence in academic performance and at the same time instils in them the values of tolerance, cooperation, compassion and better communication.

Appreciation was expressed for these schoolchildren who are now getting an opportunity of quality education and looking forward to a bright future mainly because of your support and contribution.



**Engineering Graduates - beneficiaries of Education Support Programme**

A unique feature of the Qandeel School Support Project is the support for the students after they have completed their goals of basic education. A proper record of their activities after they leave the schools is kept. The teachers and the management keep close liaison with the parents, elementary and high schools in the area. They help the students admission into these schools, and the children are economically assisted through the Education Support Program if in need. At the moment there are almost 400 children in this programme.



**Youngsters celebrating Watermelon Day**

## Reports from national groups

### Canberra – Janice Scarabottolo



The small Canberra TOS group follows the same lines as previously, meeting several times in the year. The meeting follows a small study session and we start our TOS business with a short meditation.

During the year we held a morning tea (at a café with beautiful views) with a view to socialising and a brunch at the Botanical Gardens, giving some of us the opportunity to explore the Red Centre Gardens which had been installed. As a result of this we were able to donate to the Philippines Disaster Fund and the Olcott Memorial School.

We continued with our support of the education of a student in Pakistan and have been allocated a new student, a nine-year-old boy attending Aney Model Children Academy in Karachi. We wish him well in his schooling. We also donated a small \$25 loan through KIVA to enable a woman in the Philippines to purchase seeds for her farming enterprise. Barbara Harrod has been continuing to buy and donate warm winter clothes to the *Mission without Borders* project which sends them to the poorest countries in Europe. We continued to collect used postage stamps for the Red Cross.

We promote TOS work in general through a page of the Canberra TS newsletter dedicated to TOS and its projects and activities. Having our small wicker “collection” basket at public meetings, brings awareness of our activities to everyone including those who are not TS members. Our thanks go to everyone who has contributed to these projects.

### Melbourne – Georgina Fode

Warmest greetings to all TOS Members and friends. The National TOS AGM was held in January 2015 we were happy to send the National TOS Yearly Report to all TOS Members who could not attend the AGM. This year, TOS held two activities at the T.S. in Melbourne. A workshop on “Living Earth, Meditative Art, Inner Peace and Harmony” facilitated by Edward Sinclair, Nina Mazurek and Georgina Fode. The second activity was with Pamela Fenton, Edward Sinclair and Georgina Fode on “Healing of Relationships with Self and Others” both being well attended with donations raised for the TOS National Projects.

A monthly TOS activity “Creative Art & Mandala Healing” raised \$924 dollars for National TOS Projects. This activity was held at the Community Library in

Mornington Peninsular with the Mornington TOS group, for which I offer sincere thanks to Alice Opper for her support. The group activity was well attended where awareness of the work of the TOS was raised. Donations were sent to National TOS of \$450 for the Olcott Memorial School in Adyar, and \$472 to TOS Golden Link School in Philippines. Additional amounts were also donated of \$300 for Olcott Memorial School and \$150 for Golden Link School.

### Georgina reading Melbourne Report at our AGM



The yearly TOS picnic was held at the Melbourne Botanical Garden and was very well attended with TOS members and friends. Healing Meditation was held under the trees.

On the behalf of TOS Melbourne, we would like to sincerely thank our National Co-ordinator Jean Carroll and her team for the work and continual support. We would also like to give a thank-you to the Melbourne TS for their support and the use of the T.S. activity room. Thank you to all TOS members and friends for their interest, donations and continual support in the TOS, and special thank you to our facilitator Pamela Fenton, Nina Mazurek and to Edward Sinclair for his dedication and support as our Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for TOS in Melbourne.

### Perth – Rhonda Phillips

The Perth TOS branch has had another successful year, even though we have no physical assets. Our true assets are our members. Our membership has begun to re-build and we now have 23 members. We view each new member as a gift and they are welcome as a friend.

The TOS have started several new ventures by forging friendships with likeminded groups. We have joined with the Liberal Catholic Church to bring Taize meditation for World Peace on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month. This is a meditation that we and the world sorely needs. We have also linked up with Wanslea Grandcare, and this organisation assists over 600 families in Western Australia. Grandcare’s focus is on caring for the grandparents who are often in desperate financial and emotional crisis. The TOS donated \$1,000 to Grandcare. The money was used to offer a silver service meal at a Catering College for 40 grandparents. This lunch helped build friendships and support networks.

## Perth cont'd

Another new venture is our donation of USD\$100 to micro loans sponsored by Kiva. The four loans are to Pacita in the Philippines – 45% repaid, Shabana in Pakistan – 29% repaid, Ana Maria in Colombia – 16% repaid and Francisca in Nicaragua – 65% repaid. We will continue to review this project over the coming year. Our existing projects continue.

1. The TOS financial support for a Pakistan Home School was recognised this year by the PIA (Pakistanis' in Australia Association). PIA gave the TOS a Certificate of Appreciation.

2. The "Link of Hearts" absent healing meditation now has over 40 people on the list covered by 3 teams of Meditators



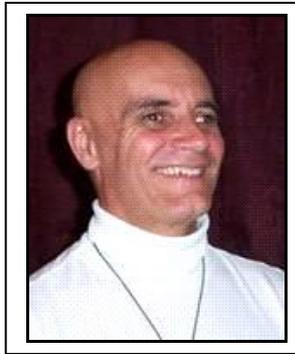
**Perth TOS members Shirley Martin, Rhonda Philips  
Chairperson Perth TOS and Viv. Ward**

We publish a monthly electronic newsletter. We now have an excellent collection of TOS posters and aprons with the TOS logo. This year we held numerous events and functions. Our social fund raising events have included 5 movie outings, a theatre outing and Opera in the Park. We organised 3 talks. We also held our monthly Healing Meditation sessions. We catered for the 2014 TS Easter Retreat lunches. This was a great deal of effort by our enthusiastic TOS members

We made the following donations  
\$1,000 to the Pakistan Home Schooling Project  
\$100 to Indigenous Community Volunteers  
\$250 to SAWA  
\$1,050 to Philippines Typhoon Relief  
\$350 to the Golden Link College in the Philippines  
\$500 to Medecins Sans Frontieres.

It has been a very successful year and I would like to "Thank" all our hard workers. Every person brings their particular strength to the group and gives generously. Our events run like clockwork without any direction and everyone willing plays their part.

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



## You're Stories The falling leaves

**Les Dyer**

In life you and I notice that nature tells us everything we want to know.....from the circle of life to the cycle of seasons.....and everything in between.

Take trees as an example. Each tree starts as a tiny seed in the darkness of the earth's soil and moves upward into the bright light of day. It is constantly growing, never stopping its development in one way or another. Its bark is tough but resilient so that it can withstand the weather. Its trunk is strong but pliable so that it can bend without breaking in the strongest of winds. Its branches radiate outward in many directions in search of experience and sustenance. These branches intertwine effortlessly with the branches of neighboring trees.

Each tree lives in harmony with its neighbors: none compares itself either as inferior or superior in relation to other trees in its circle. None becomes violent with those who share its particular parcel of land. None gangs up. Each is happy to be itself; and to grow as is meant, regardless of the progress of others.

The tree and its branches accept all-comers, both of the feathered and footed varieties, graciously and openly without ever any murmur of dissent. And its leaves constantly drop: yet never a tear falls as it watches itself be shorn of its company. It simply allows the inevitable to happen, ever certain that new growth and new leaves will replace those now lost. It realizes that, only when its end comes and it dies, will new leaves stop appearing.

These leaves represent its friendships, its relationships and its almost endless opportunities to express itself: thus, as its leaves fall away they are replaced. This tree shows us so many laws of nature. And it also explains so much about ourselves, too. Just take a moment to relate each aspect of the tree to your own life.....and be amazed! By recognizing and acknowledging the working of these laws in our own lives, we are able to grow ever stronger, ever taller, ever more in harmony with the Infinite and Divine Presence that plants us in the rich soil of wondrous Life!

Upon recognising the central role of service in living the theosophical life –Dr Besant urges those who hear her words to train themselves in the daily habit of service - the first step being to see through the external form of those that they contact and to recognise the Self that is seated in the heart through all outer casings. This challenging advice implies shift from intellectualising about it, to feeling the reality of the action-a shift in consciousness, a soul-to-soul connection.

**From The Theosophical Life-Dr Annie Besant.**

## Animal Welfare & Social Activism

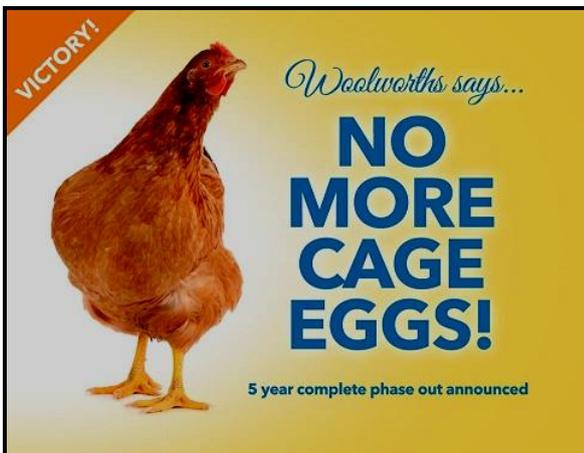
In this electronic age we all have so much power if we join with other like-minded people to act. We can certainly make a difference and be a voice against the cruelty to animals.

Has your TOS group ever considered taking out an annual membership or donating to Animals Australia? I imagine you are all aware of the massive contribution that Lynn White and her team have done in altering the consciousness of mainstream Australia, as to cruelty to animals.

Here are some of the success stories over the past year due to social media and television.

**Cage Eggs-** MacDonal'd's & Subway have committed to no more cage eggs by 2017. IGA, Woolworths and Foodland stores have also committed to reducing the number of cage eggs being sold in their stores. Unfortunately, the current government in Tasmania has reversed the requirement for cage free eggs to be used by all government departments e.g. prisons, hospitals etc.

As a result of intense media lobbying Animals Australia has been successful in raising awareness to the cruelty involved in **Puppy Factories** (Victoria has banned this practice). **Greyhound Racing** (In Qld. many operators have been banned for life).



The founder of TOS Annie Besant was passionate about animal welfare and equally ardent about putting theosophical teachings into practice, TOS was founded specifically for members of the Theosophical Society for this purpose. Annie Besant founded the Animal Dispensary at Adyar which now employs two full time veterinary surgeons. The dispensary is one of our national projects this year. We are working towards financing a new animal ambulance for this facility.

**Please think of the animal kingdom when finalising your donations this year.**

Animals Australia website;-  
[www.animalsaustralia.org](http://www.animalsaustralia.org)



“Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of **rising above themselves**, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning.”

POPE FRANCIS

**The Theosophical life** must be a life of service. Unless we are serving, we have no right to live. We live by constant sacrifice to other lives on every side, and we must pay it back; otherwise to use an ancient phrase, we are but thieves and do not repay the gift. Service is the great illuminator. The more we serve the wiser we become, for we learn wisdom not by studying but by living. There is a sense in which the saying is perfectly true. “He who doeth the will shall know of the doctrine” To live the life of service clears the mental atmosphere of the distorting fogs of prejudice, passion and temperament. Service alone makes the eye single, so that the whole body is full of light, and only those that serve are those who truly live.

From The Theosophical Life – Dr Annie Besant

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