



Australian T.O.S. Links

Date July 2018

Committee Members

Rhonda Phillips
National Coordinator

George Wester
National Secretary

Dianne Manning
National Treasurer

Geoff Harrod
Website Administrator

Contact Us

tos.australia@gmail.com

2018 TOS Projects

- ✓ Qandeel Schools in Pakistan
- ✓ The Golden Links College in the Philippines
- ✓ The Syrian Refugee Project sponsored by the Italian TOS

Donate

CBA Bank Details:

Account Name: Theosophical
Order of Service Australia

BSB: 062 009
Account # 0090 3790

Or

Post cheques to:

Dianne Manning
TOS Treasurer
PO Box 130
Greenslopes QLD 4120

- TOS Organisational Update
- Celebrating 10 years supporting Pakistan Education Programs
- Update on fund raising for the Syrian Refugee Project

Australian TOS Organisational Update

The new national TOS committee was elected in January of this year. One of our first acts was to implemented monthly Skype committee meetings. Skype is a free video calling service via our computers. We have overcome the initial teething problems and now our meetings are running smoothly. We hold one hour meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 5:30 pm WST.

The meeting participants are Rhonda Phillips, Coordinator, and George Wester, Secretary (both located in WA) and Dianne Manning, Treasurer; Geoff Harrod, Web Administrator; and Carolyn Harrod, our guest (all located in Queensland). If other Australian TOS members wish to join us, you are welcome. Please contact Rhonda for details.

One of the topics we have discussed during our meetings is Succession Planning because this is the first democratically elected team and we are all new to the committee. None of us are carrying forward historical knowledge and procedural information. Our proposal is that we implement a rolling changeover of this current committee. One possible suggestion is that current committee members serve staggered periods, such as the Secretary serves 2 years, Treasurer serves 4 years and Coordinator serves 6 years. Moving forward this will mean all future committee positions serve 6 years and at any one time, there is only one new person on the committee and the two existing members carry forward the knowledge.

Of course, these positions are democratically elected. This coming September you will be invited to nominate as all positions will be declared vacant at the TOS AGM in January 2019. I hope that the current office bearers will re-nominate, however all nominations are welcome. You may wish to serve as a general committee member, that would be great.

Celebrating 10 years supporting Pakistan Education Programs

Our records show that the Australian TOS has been supporting the Pakistan Education Programs for at least 10 years, it may be longer. We have given this support in two ways by sponsoring individual students or by supporting the Qandeel home school program. Our financial support has come from the local state TOS groups & individuals and generous donations from Maple-Brown Abbott.

The Pakistan TOS explains that there are individual sponsorships of students at primary, secondary and college levels. The Pakistan TOS works to provide opportunities for bright young people who are unable to afford an education. The applicant is interviewed, and the case is investigated. After the necessary investigation, a sponsor is found.

All the students are from poor and needy families and it is our help that enables them to get an education. Many finish their schooling and go on to get a University Degree and can better their lives and those of their families. To date, several thousand students have benefited from TOS sponsorship. Because of this help, many have gone on to become productive, successful members of society and include doctors, nurses, engineers and other technical professionals.



The Qandeel Home Schools

Each Qandeel Home School is set up by the Pakistan TOS. The TOS finds a young woman with some teaching experience, who can improvise a class room within her humble home. Where she can teach 25 boys and girls and give them a basic education. The purpose is to motivate and encourage parents who are not aware of the advantage of education and normally not willing to send their children to schools, especially girls, due to cultural taboos or economic problems.

Through the personal efforts of the teacher, parents feel confident to send their children to a school in their vicinity. Here the teacher nurtures the children in a homely environment and teaches them a basic level of literacy which will enable them to continue education in a mainstream school.

The name Qandeel means “Candle light of Literacy” and comes from the tradition of special oil lamps that were strung between the tallest minarets on mosques on religious holidays.

Muslim people immediately understand the meaning of the **Qandeel** home schools and no further explanation is needed, just as those from the Christian tradition understand that the words “The Good Samaritan” means extending a helping hand to a stranger of a different cultural background. Qandeel also is a Muslim girl’s name.

The first Qandeel School was started in 1999 and presently there are 287 students enrolled in eleven schools, out of which are 135 boys and 152 girls. The student ages vary from 4 years to 14 years.

The schools are in suburbs of Karachi. Many of the schools are in a suburb called Orangi Town. Orangi town has a population of approximately 2.5 million although government records only record 700,000 inhabitants.



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Orangi Town, Karachi, Pakistan



Update on fund raising for the Syrian Refugee Project

You may recall that the Italian TOS asked us to raise 4,000 Euros, which is AUD\$6,000 for the Syrian Refugee project. We have received AUD \$3,905 through generous donations from TOS groups and individuals. This means we have raised 2/3 of the requested funds.

I am hopeful that we will raise the full amount.

Many thanks for your kind donations. **Rhonda**

About the TOS

The Theosophical Order of Service is an international organization founded in 1908 by Annie Besant, the second International President of the Theosophical Society. Its motto is: "A union of those who love in the service of all that suffer."

The TOS is present in many countries of the World and is engaged in various service projects that seek to alleviate suffering, such as medical missions, assistance during disasters, orphanages, scholarships, establishment of schools, rehabilitation of malnourished children, caring for the disabled, preventing cruelty to animals, promoting vegetarianism, character building for young people, etc. TOS members need not be members of the Theosophical Society, but it is administered by Theosophists.

What does the TOS do in Australia?

In Australia, we work in six inter-related areas of service:

Peace, social welfare, education, healing, animal welfare and the environment.

Members may work on individually selected activities or on group projects, sometimes in partnership with other groups.

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