

TOS Brisbane

2016 AGM Annual Report

Report by Geoff Harrod, President

Meetings were held four times during the year to discuss donations, projects to be supported and to plan and report on activities. Meetings were held at 10 am on Saturdays. Attendance was between 8 and 12.

A meditation for world peace continued to be held before the meetings. This is based on Geoffrey Hodgson's *Divine Life Visualisation* with variations developed by Brisbane members.

Major fund-raising activities in 2016

- **Concert - 7 August**

- **in aid of the Quandeel Home-Schools in Pakistan**

- Admission was \$25 (or \$20 concession) The historic TS building provides a very good music venue and its use is given free by the Brisbane Theosophical Society. The concert raised \$728 for the Home-Schools run by the TOS in Pakistan.

We thank the team of TOS members for their considerable efforts in organising this event, serving afternoon tea and coffee after the concert and providing goodies for the sale table and the raffle prize. Thanks are also due to Barbara Damska of the Queensland Conservatorium who got the musicians together and arranged the programme. The concert was very well received. This was the third such concert that the TOS has staged and the musicians showed much interest in the project.

These Quandeel schools are managed by the TOS in Pakistan. They are held in the teachers' homes and kept largely secret to avoid the attention of the Taliban who would shut them down violently because they educate girls. The schools provide education for boys and girls from poor parents who would not otherwise be able to have any education.

- **Annerley Community Bookshop - Sunday 26 June 2pm**

- **in aid of the *Women's House Refuge* project**

- This bookshop is mainly a community meeting place and a shop to resell second-hand books, CDs and LPs as well as new books. Artwork was also on sale. There are easy chairs and we provided tea and coffee and a sumptuous afternoon tea. Entry was by donation and the event proved very popular. The bookshop gave 50% of the proceeds of sales during our event to the TOS. The event was held outside the bookshop's normal opening hours.

- The TOS donated the \$625 proceeds to the Brisbane *Women's House*, which provides support, emergency housing, advocacy and other assistance to women experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault.

Funding for donations is greatly assisted by the interest on our investments managed by Maple-Brown-Abbott, the investment managers for the TS HQ in Sydney. This year \$3000 was withdrawn from the interest to fund donations.

As well as these fund-raising activities, members gave their time and energy individually to take part in various volunteer activities in their local communities.

Our funds in Australian Dollars go a long way to assist people in countries where costs are low and currency conversion favourable. The funding is also much enhanced by being provided in places where a local TOS organisation exists that can handle the money and do the work without deducting anything for administration.

Brisbane TOS also keeps in reserve some funds to assist local causes in Brisbane as they arise and other unexpected events. This year additional donations included the Fiji Cyclone disaster relief, the CWA outback farmers appeal and the Royal Flying Doctor service.

Projects and donations Oct 2015 - Sept 2016 Financial Year

Project	Notes	Donation
Royal Flying Doctor Service	In memory of Audrey Gardiner who was Brisbane TOS secretary for 20 years	\$170
CWA Qld for Farmers' Appeal	Collections at TS AGM. TS doubled what was collected.	\$825
Red Cross	Fiji cyclone emergency	\$250
Women's House	Income from bookshop event, donations & book sales	\$625
Pakistan Home schools (National Project)	Beneficiary of August concert, sale table & raffle	\$1,100
2 Educational Scholarships in Pakistan	Ongoing sponsorship of individual students	\$300
Golden Link College, Philippines (National Project)	\$ for \$ match from Kern Foundation	\$1,000
Mobility aids in Arunachalam & Assam regions of India	Local manufacture of tricycles and wheelchairs for amputees and people crippled in other ways.	\$750
Olcott Memorial School	On the TS HQ estate, Adyar	\$750
Animal dispensary at Adyar (National Project)	Provides veterinary care for Chennai area	\$750
Total donations for 2015/16		\$6,520

I would like to thank all the TOS members for their keenness to follow the TOS principles of altruistic action. I would also like to thank in particular the executive members for their capable work to support the TOS aims. In 2016 the elected officers were: *President: Geoff Harrod; Vice-President: Dianne Manning, Secretary: Janet Harding, Treasurer: Carolyn Harrod.* Carolyn managed to keep the accounts up to date despite being absent from many meetings due to being in hospital.

- Geoff Harrod, President