

**THE THEOSOPHICAL  
SOCIETY  
IN CANBERRA**

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**A Word from the President**

Dear members

Welcome to the 88<sup>th</sup> issue of the newsletter – and a big thank you to our editor, Janice.

I would also like to thank those members who voted for me as President of Canberra Branch. As many of you know, there was a question mark over the future of our Branch due to the added difficulty in finding nominations for the office bearer roles. I also acknowledge that there may have been a question mark over my nomination for the position of President, particularly given I had only recently transferred my membership to the Branch, and some of you may not know me.

I am hoping that by providing you with a little bit of my background, as well as my vision for my one-year term, it may help to put your mind at ease.

I joined the Theosophical Society (TS) over 25 years ago and have been a continuous member ever since. I have sat on the Executive Committee of Blavatsky Lodge, Sydney on and off—with the most recent appointment being as President, which ended in November 2017. I have also been a member of the Executive Committee of the National Section for approximately three years, which ended in January 2018.

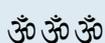
I came to the TS in a roundabout way. In my late teens, I took up meditation and yoga, which at that time was certainly not mainstream, as it seems to be today. In fact, I often hid my attendance from those around me in case they thought I might have joined a cult! During this time, I also worked as a chemist in the pharmaceutical industry and I completed my Bachelor of Science, majoring in Applied Chemistry, in an apprenticeship arrangement with my employer.

In my early-twenties I decided to study Naturopathy after experiencing an illness from a trip I took to China, which didn't seem to respond to treatment with orthodox medicine. It was while I was studying Remedial Massage and looking for some anatomy books that I was introduced to the Adyar Bookshop in Sydney – and I became a frequent visitor—as my bank account can attest.

The first TS book I bought was by Charles W. Leadbeater, entitled *The Hidden Side of Things*, with most of the subjects covered in the book resonating with me at that time. From there I found my way to the doors of Blavatsky Lodge. I was drawn to the TS in an effort to try to understand the many psychic experiences I had experienced while growing up.

While I don't believe I have the answers to those questions (yet), I also don't believe it really matters as my interest has now moved to the depth of wealth of information on Theosophy held by the TS, who acts as a kind of custodian. I believe my theosophical studies so far have helped to support and guide my personal development.

*(continued on page 3)*



The Theosophical Society in Canberra is not responsible for any statement in this newsletter. Views expressed are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Society or the Editor.

## Notes for members and friends



**Sydney  
2019**

**President  
Canberra  
Branch**



**Marie  
McArdle**

**ACT/NSW  
State Rep**



**Gerard  
Brennan**

**Website**

### 2019 Convention of the Theosophical Society

19 to 26 January 2019

**Divine Wisdom in Theory and Practice  
Sancta Sophia College, Sydney**

<https://theosophicalsociety.org.au/highlights/2019-convention-sydney>

The New President of Canberra Branch

President of Canberra Branch, Marie McArdle, tells us a little about herself on page 1 at *A Word from The President*.

We look forward to Marie's presidency during 2019 and thank her for taking on the important, onerous, challenging and rewarding role of President, with our full support in her task.

She will be our first speaker next year, with her talk on Saturday 16 February (see programme on page 14).

Marie invites you to send your queries to her at [vibrational-balance@gmail.com](mailto:vibrational-balance@gmail.com) or send your greetings to Convention with Marie.

We welcome Gerard Brennan as the newly appointed State Representative for ACT/NSW and look forward to his visit to Canberra Branch.

Gerard's message to Canberra is at page 10.

*State Representatives represent the Lodge/Branch in all meetings and affairs of the National Council. They liaise with the Branch and represents views to the National Council as appropriate.*

See how to check out the new website— page 9.  
<https://canberra.theosophicalsociety.org.au/>

*(A Word from the President - continued from page 1)*

After completing my Diploma in Naturopathy I began studies in Homoeopathy. Once I had completed my Diploma in Homoeopathy I travelled to India and spent some time working in a homoeopathic hospital in Kolkata (Calcutta). From there I made my way to the TS headquarters in Adyar, Chennai (Madras) for the first time and stayed for a holiday.

During each of my subsequent stays in Adyar I felt a strong vibration and connection to the place, which, unfortunately, seemed to have diminished during my most recent trip from November 2016 to January 2017. Nevertheless, I would still highly recommend all members pay Adyar a visit, if you haven't already done so, to appreciate its history and to witness some of the improvements taking place under the guidance of International President, Tim Boyd.

You may ask why I agreed to join the Executive Committee of Canberra Branch. Ah yes— a good question. Over twenty years ago, I lived in Canberra for a year while working as a manager at the Australian Broadcasting Authority. I had the opportunity to explore the nooks and crannies of Canberra and got to appreciate its beauty. I was also pleasantly surprised at how quickly I settled in and how I was able to find a rhythm that supported my meditations and spiritual studies while helping to balance the demands of my work. I still have fond memories of that time.

Concerning the situation with our Branch, I believe it is simply at a turning point, which all Branches seem to have to go through. Perhaps it is just part of its cycle. My motivation is rather simple but hopefully practical. I would like to help build the Branch's membership and in turn, introduce more people to Theosophy in Canberra.

Of course, this should never be a solo act. It requires a team effort with a similar vision. The team, of course, should include all members and not just rely solely on those on the Executive Committee.

**Are you able to help? Your help can be as simple as meeting and greeting every familiar and unfamiliar person who comes along to a programme event. It can be assisting to distribute promotional material for our programmes in your area. It can even be letting your network of friends, or people you randomly meet, know that our Branch exists and what it has to offer.**



Marie 5th right with some Canberra members

I believe 2019 will be a pivotal year for our Branch. It will possibly be a make or break kind of situation. Therefore, time is of the essence, as they say.

I look forward to catching up with you when our paths cross. Also, please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions or ideas. My contact details are listed in this newsletter, or can be found on our website.

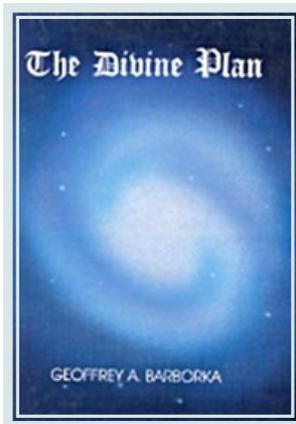
I would like to close by specially thanking Grahame for standing at the helm as President for several terms. Grahame's attention to detail and commitment has ensured the hand-over to me was smooth and I truly appreciate his assistance in helping to get me up to speed. No doubt I have more to learn as the year progresses.

On a separate note, many of you may know that the Annual National Convention will be held in Sydney from 19-26 January 2019. The registration form can be found on our website if you have not yet registered but would like to. If you are not able to attend but would like to send greetings – please let me know and I will make sure they are read out for you.

Wishing you a wonderful time over the Christmas and New Year period - and please stay safe and take good care.

Yours in brotherhood - Marie McArdle  
President, The Theosophical Society in Canberra

## THE DIVINE PLAN - PRESENTATION BY GRAHAME CROOKHAM



On 3 September Grahame Crookham gave a presentation illustrated with PowerPoint slides on *The Divine Plan Based on Numerous Spiritual Masters and Geoffrey Barborka's Study Guide to The Secret Doctrine*. This is quite an accomplishment in one evening's meeting.

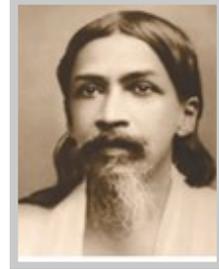
The book by Barborka was meant as a commentary or guide or method of approach for those who wish to study *The Secret Doctrine* – the work containing Blavatsky's 'teachings' to the Western World.

Barborka indicates that a Plan exists within the Esoteric Philosophy; this would be the manifestation of Divine Laws, presenting a pattern of unfoldment, operating within the Divine Plan.

1. Law of Periodicity – reincarnation. *For every period of activity there is a consequent interval or rest, observable in nature as day and night, the flow and ebb of tides, the process of waking and sleeping, birth and death.* The Law manifests as the Law of Constant Renewal implying reincarnation.
2. Law of Adjustment: harmony and rhythm is a fundamental aspect of the Divine Plan. *Whenever harmony is disturbed, an adjustment must be made in order that the disrupted equilibrium may be restored.* The Law of Karma explains the action of this law.
3. Law of Essential Unity - the doctrine of Hierarchy. *Essential unity is the basic pattern in the universe. The universe is the result of the manifestation of beings who build and guide it. The radical unity of the ultimate essence of each constituent part of compounds in Nature.....this is the one fundamental law in Occult science. The beings forming the universe and living in it are all linked together because of a common bond of origin. This unity is the one fundamental law in Occult Science.*
4. Law of Self Enfoldment – Life purpose. *Every entity seeks to express itself in accordance with its essential characteristics.*
5. Law of Motion – Evolution – The doctrine of continuous change. *There is no rest or cessation of motion in nature. Some force ever impels it onward, ever seeking a loftier status.*
6. The Septenary Law – Everything in the metaphysical as in the physical universe is septenary. Seven, or multiples of seven, command the actual steps or stages and sequences of growth. Seven rays, seven colours of the rainbow, sevenfold human constitution.
7. Law of Compassion – *The Law of Compassion is present throughout the universe and is a fundamental necessity in carrying on the purposes of the Divine Plan.*
8. Law of Coming into Being – the Doctrine of Universal Knowledge. It is the many that proceed from the One.

In keeping with the title of the presentation, Grahame introduced various spiritual masters to illustrate several aspects of the Plan.

On Reincarnation or Constant Renewal, Sri Aurobinda is quoted: *The soul is a spark of the Divine in this evolutionary existence, which develops birth after birth into a new personality, gaining in experience, widening its scope, and enlarging its power of receiving and returning so that it may grow more and more in likeness to the Effulgent Spirit, from which it has come down with a set purpose*

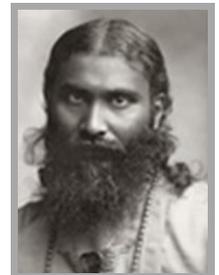


Sri Aurobindo

And on the same theme, Babaji says: *Life and death are the two scenes in the drama of life. Birth is only a state of waking after a deep sleep and death is only a long sleep.*

On The Law of Essential Unity, Dolores Cannon writes; *We should call ourselves "we" because we are only a being composed of a huge colony of trillions of individual beings.*

On the Law of Self-Unfoldment, Hazrat Inayat Khan writes: *The purpose of life ... is that the only Being makes his oneness intelligible to Himself. He goes through different planes of evolution ... to make clear to Himself His oneness. And as long as this purpose is not accomplished, the one and only Being has not reached His ultimate satisfaction, in which lies His divine perfection.*



Hazrat Inayat Khan

On the Law of Motion, Silver Birch writes: *Life, because it is life, cannot ever be static, for that way lies stagnation. Life is rhythm, motion, progress, unfoldment, development, the reaching out towards perfection all the time.*

On the Law of Evolution, White Eagle: *The whole purpose of incarnation is this slow evolution of the spirit, its awakening in matter, to self-consciousness and God consciousness. It is the duty of each of us "to help forward the spiritual evolution of all life".*

Also pertaining to evolution, Jesus said: *God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.*

And H P Blavatsky: *No Divine Soul ... can have an independent conscious existence before the spark which issued from the pure Essence of the ... OVER-SOUL ... has:*

- (a) *passed through every elemental form of the phenomenal world of that ...round of life, and*
- (b) *acquired individuality, first by natural impulse, and then by self-induced and self-devised efforts..., thus ascending through all the degrees of intelligence, from the lowest to the highest Manas, from mineral and plant, up to the holiest archangel.*



Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

The above is a very small portion of the presentation of 3 September.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MISSION STATEMENT

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN CANBERRA

The Annual General Meeting for the financial year 1 September 2017 – 31 August 2018 was held at the Friends' Meeting House, 17 Bent Street, Turner, on Monday 8 October 2018 with 11 members and one visitor in attendance and with two apologies having been received. Individual reports had mostly been circulated by email prior to the AGM, and all were voted on and passed at the meeting.

With positions having been declared vacant, the elected Executive Committee is as follows:

President	Marie McArdle
Vice-President	Vacant
Treasurer	Grahame Crookham
Secretary	Barbara Harrod
Committee member	Keith Ross (and minutes)
Committee member	Margot Herbert
Committee member	Peter Fokker
Committee member	Lynda Campbell
Committee member	Maia Rose

Officers were thanked for dedicated work given to the organisation and the smooth running of the Theosophical Society in Canberra.

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#### **Subsequent positions:-**

The Program Committee now comprises: Grahame Crookham, Gordon Herbert, Margot Herbert, Lynda Campbell, Birthe Ross, Barbara Harrod and Marie McArdle.

Newsletter: Janice Scarabottolo

### MISSION STATEMENT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

**To serve humanity by cultivating an ever-deepening understanding and realisation of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual Self-transformation, and the Unity of all Life.**

All members and friends of the Theosophical Society in Canberra are wished a tranquil, safe Festive Season and end of year with renewed vitality for us to meet in 2019.

We thank everyone for support, friendship, ideas, and presence at all our meetings and events during the year. We anticipate your enthusiasm to forge an inspiring year ahead for Canberra Branch.

The ongoing success of the TS in Canberra depends on the support of members and friends - the unity that keep us travelling into the future.

## HEALING WORKSHOP

**A Healing Workshop**

**with**

**Margot Herbert**



**From the**

**Discussion Group**

**15 September 2018**

Emotional mastery is important for our wellbeing. Prolonged negative emotion has a negative effect on the body and our state of mind. We can change it by forgiving and letting it go. Belief is part of the reason that we can get better on every level. Doubt holds us back. Meditation is important in our healing as it helps us align on all levels and brings peacefulness. The combination of meditation, good thoughts and healthy food improves our quality of life and contributes to our wholeness and wellness.

Meditation can turn the switch on genes that affect most of our behaviour, thoughts and feelings. The more we practice daily meditation the more our whole system of health can improve. Everything cannot be cured by medicine and surgery. A doctor was treating two people with skin dermatitis with the same treatment. One was a meditator and the doctor found that the meditator healed four times faster than the non meditator. Modern science has shown that the mind has the power to heal. Scientists now understand that the mind has a direct line of influence over the body. They also now know that the etheric energy body is real through experiments with acupuncture channels and points. The recent science of epigenetics has specified the mechanisms by which cellular environmental factors such as thoughts, emotions and physical substances can affect the functioning of cells via gene switching on or off. There is also ample evidence now that happiness, good social contacts and a spiritual awareness lead to a healthier and longer life. We are becoming aware that our health is an integrated system that involves all aspects of our nature – from spiritual through mental and emotional to the physical. We can influence our health at any or all levels of this system according to our own level of awareness.

MRIs have shown that people who meditate have smaller amygdalae and are more peaceful and balanced emotionally. The amygdala has a major role in memory, decision making and emotional responses. It is larger in people with excessive fear and aggression, and with stress and bipolar disorders. Meditation reduces the size of the amygdala.

While the energy body's chi (prana, life force or universal energy) can be enhanced and blockages removed by acupuncture, it can also be influenced by our thoughts and feelings. We can improve the energy flow by more creative thoughts and feelings, and by using imagery and affirmations. It is responsive to exercise, fresh air and good nutrition. How we love profoundly affects our health and energy, and of course it affects those around us. Emotional mastery is a key to healthy energy balance and wellbeing.

Having a positive outlook on life and creative life aims is beneficial to maintaining a healthy mind and body. However we do need to convert our aims and aspirations into practical activities. It is through actively and creatively engaging in life that we manifest our soul aim that leads to further enlightenment and wellbeing for the whole. *(Words from Margot Herbert)*



**CANBERRA BRANCH**

**FACEBOOK PAGE AND SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**



Canberra Branch of  
The Theosophical  
Society



**On Facebook:**

Find us at  
**'Canberra Branch of  
The Theosophical  
Society'**

Above: This is how Canberra TS Facebook page appears

Canberra Branch now has a Facebook Page! Make sure to 'Like' the page and invite your friends and family to the page, if you think this appropriate. If you are interested in posting something please let the page's administrator, Marie McArdle know.

#### SHORT SUMMARY BY THE PRESIDENT — OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING—17.11.2018

The Executive Committee (EC) met on Saturday, 17 November and managed to get through the agenda, which was no mean feat, given that it was the first meeting of the new term (after the AGM) and there was a lot to discuss. Here are three items taken from the agenda that may give you some insight into how the EC spends its time:

- 1) We acknowledged our new ACT/NSW State Representative, Gerard Brennan. He will no doubt be warmly welcomed when he visits us on 16 March 2019. Gerard will also present a talk on 'Karma' at 2.00pm, which is scheduled for the same day.
- 2) The most recent financial statement shows we are just breaking even, which creates a challenge when looking at ways to promote and advertise our programmes and the Branch's existence. We agreed to continue with our subscription to 'MeetUp' and to set up a 'Facebook' Page. Further promotional ideas will be explored at our next meeting to be held on 16 February 2019.
- 3) We discussed the future of our library, which holds approximately 1,500 books. Several ideas have been explored already e.g. storing them at a different location for easier access, selling them to a second-hand bookstore, giving them away to another library, etc. The EC agreed that further inquiries were required to ensure all possible options have been explored.



**Do you know...?**

When at a TS meeting at the Emeritus Faculty, have you examined the bronze bust on the plinth at the entrance?

Historian John Molony was the Emeritus Faculty Founder and former Head of the Department of History, ANU. He was also President of the Dante Alighieri Society in Canberra for 17 years and we recall his talk on Raffaello Carboni and the Eureka Stockade and his lecture presented at Parliament House on *Eureka and the Prerogative of the People*. (At the Eureka Stockade Raffaello Carboni called on miners "irrespective of nationality, religion or colour".)

Professor Molony died in September 2018.

Bust of Prof. Molony  
by Ante Dabro



## The Theosophical Society in Australia Canberra Branch

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<https://canberra.theosophicalsociety.org.au/>

The new national website is now live - with access to all Lodges/Branches. To help you familiarise yourself with it, here are some brief guidelines.

Our banner of the Home Page above shows the default web address of Canberra Branch <https://canberra.theosophicalsociety.org.au/> - most likely the one you will be looking for.

From here you can navigate to HQ National site or other Lodges/Branches by going to "Change location" on the top right. You can also sign in (top right) but this is not necessary.

You can search under each of the sub-menus shown on the banner.

Example: Sub-menu Libraries - Even if you have opted to log in under Canberra Branch, you can still search the library catalogues of The Theosophical Society in Australia, the Union Index of Theosophical Periodicals, and the Index of Theosophical Periodicals—under Libraries. And check out the many articles, programme events, videos/audios and other great resources.

The site will be regularly updated with Canberra Branch's programme events to keep it current and relevant.

Happy searching.

### PHILLIP FRANKCOMBE—ART AND SPIRITUALITY

TS Members and friends enjoyed a stimulating presentation on Saturday 20 October with Phillip Frankcombe's illustrated talk on his Art and Spirituality.

The presentation began with an explanation of Sahaja Yoga meditation which Phillip practises. Members of the meditation group had come to attend the afternoon's presentation, making it an enthusiastic gathering

A trained artist who has exhibited in ACT and Tasmania, Phillip described his paintings, illustrating them with PowerPoint slides. The

paintings followed through the chakras commencing with One to Seven.

Mother Nature is depicted through various spiritual symbols and natural aspects such as the light of the sun, or flowers in vibrant colours which appear to evoke power, but also with a certain innate peace.

The presentation followed on with a meditation through the seven chakras: 1 – innocence; 2 – creativity; 3 – peace; 4 – love and compassion; 5 – collectivity; 6 – forgiveness; 7 integration.

Read more about Phillip at [www.salutationart.com](http://www.salutationart.com)



*Crystal Clear* by Phillip Frankcombe with thanks and acknowledgement to website [www.salutationart.com](http://www.salutationart.com)

## ACT/NSW STATE REPRESENTATIVE



### ACT/NSW State Representative—Gerard Brennan

Greetings to TS members in the Canberra TS Branch. I am happy to let you all know that I have been appointed as State Rep for NSW/ACT and I plan to visit as many groups around these states as possible.

I joined the Theosophical Society in 1997 and have served on the Blavatsky Lodge Committee in Sydney in a number of capacities. In 2016 I was appointed as President of the Indo-Pacific Federation of the TS and over the last two years I have travelled around to some Lodges-Sections in the IPF region carrying out my responsibilities.

It was with pleasure that I accepted the task of being State Rep and I will try my very best to complete that role to the best of my ability. I have a particular interest in the idea of Universal Brotherhood and am also interested in the deeper spiritual aspects of Theosophy and their practical application in life. My professional background has been in education and I am currently a senior English teacher at a large comprehensive high school in Sydney.

It is my intention to meet as many TS members as I can around NSW/ACT and become more familiar with the theosophical activities in those areas. I hope to come down to Canberra and attend one of your meetings as soon as possible. Please feel free to come up and speak to me when I visit.

I wish you all well with the good theosophical work being done in the Canberra Branch and am looking forward to learning more about the work and mingling with individual members. All the best.

Warm Regards, Gerard Brennan, State Rep, NSW/ACT

#### *Information for new members*

### ANNUAL FEES/SUBSCRIPTIONS

#### Annual fees for the Theosophical Society in Canberra

Financial year 1.9.2018—31 8.2019:

**Ordinary member:** \$75 with printed *T in A* / \$55 with electronic *T in A*

**Student/pensioner\*:** \$70 with printed *T in A* / \$50 with electronic *T in A*

**Joining fee:** \$5

**Friends:** by donation

\* Copy of concession card is required, as per National Executive Committee Minutes of July 2004.

**A membership form can be obtained from Treasurer, Grahame Crookham  
tifcrook@tpg.com.au**



## More on Art and Theosophical Ideas

arte e magia

Il fascino dell'Esoterismo in Europa

Palazzo Roverella | Rovigo  
29 settembre 2018 - 27 gennaio 2019

There is a great deal of interest in how artists, particularly those in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were influenced by Theosophy. In Australia, artists such as Florence Fuller, Clarice Beckett, Ethel Carrick Fox and others were drawn to ideas of Theosophy.

If we have concerns in a global theosophical approach to art, a quick look at what is being shown at an exhibition in Rovigo, in the north east of Italy, from 29 September 2018 until 27 January 2019, may fill a few chronological gaps.

The exhibition being held at the Palazzo Roverella, Rovigo - Art and Magic, dealing with the Fascination of Esotericism in European Painting traces the paths of certain artists in this subject from symbolism to avant garde. Starting in France and Belgium, the influence of esoteric culture spread throughout Europe in the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The website of *La Repubblica* (a reputable and widely circulated Italian daily national newspaper), in reviewing the exhibition, puts theosophy firmly in the picture. It states that the theories of the hermetic tradition, and mainly “the Theosophy of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky had a significant role, together with research into colour and optics, in the genesis of abstract art.”<sup>1</sup>

Among the many artists whose works are displayed in the exhibition are Jean Delville, Wassily Kandinsky, August Rodin, Edvard Munch, Paul Klee, Giacomo Balla, Piet Mondrian, František Kupka.

Looking at a few of the artists, we find a trail winding through, leading to, or picking up - sometimes erratically - connections to Theosophy.

Jean Delville (1867–1953) born in Belgium, Delville was well recognised for the symbolic genre of his art. He later lived in France where he became acquainted with The Theosophical Society. At one point he was Head of Painting at Glasgow School of Art and became the first General Secretary of the Theosophical Society in Belgium— from 1911-1913.

Pieter (Piet) Mondrian, Dutch (1872 – 1944), was interested in symbolism, making use of mystical triangles and hexagons. He was a TS member of the Vahana Lodge in Holland. Mondrian was known for his work in neo-plasticism. He lived and worked first in the Netherlands and then Paris which he left in the face of advancing fascism.



Piet Mondrian: Row of eleven poplars in red, yellow, blue and green - From website of Palazzo Roverella. (public domain)

František Kupka Czech (1871 - 1957) was involved with Theosophy, although not a member. His personal writing indicates that he was well acquainted with the works of Blavatsky, Besant and Leadbeater. His art shows a strong interest in colour theory; in cosmic forces and the occult and the relationship between music and painting (orphism).

Wassily Kandinsky, Russian (1866 - 1944) was not a member of The Theosophical Society, but was heavily influenced by Theosophy.<sup>2</sup>

His book *Concerning the Spiritual in Art* is very influential; he compares the spiritual life to a pyramid, with the aim of reaching the pinnacle. Besant and Leadbeater's book on thought forms had an impact on him, as it did on other artists interested in abstract art at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>3</sup> He taught at the Bauhaus School of Art, Germany 1922 -1933.

Paul Klee, Swiss German (1879- 1940). Like Kandinsky he taught at the Bauhaus, 1921 – 1931 and was influenced by him in theosophical thought.<sup>4</sup>

Giacomo Balla, Italian (1871 – 1958) - together with Arnaldo Ginna (Count Arnaldo Ginanni Corradini) they were considered to be the main pioneers of abstract art in Italy. Balla's daughter, Elica, in a book of memoirs *Con Balla* (1984) wrote that her father [Balla] while in Rome, attended "the meetings of a society of theosophists" - the President was General Ballatore; it seemed though that Balla never became a member.

Ginna, although not among the artists in the Rovigo exhibition, is certainly well worth mentioning here. (Italian 1890 – 1982) Painter, sculptor and film maker, Ginna declared that he and his brother had a supply of literature, among which were works by Blavatsky, Steiner, Besant and Leadbeater. Ginna attended theosophical conferences which were held in Bologna and Florence.

There were certainly links between these two artists and theosophical circles. The words of General Ballatore (1839 - 1920) who was President of the Theosophical Group *Roma* illustrate how theosophical thought at that time offered artists the possibilities of exploring new territories. [See insert right.]

The Theosophical Encyclopedia states that at the turn of the twentieth century, Theosophy was being discussed by the intelligentsia with artists experimenting to expand the limits of human imagination, investigating unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in humanity (Third Object of the Theosophical Society).

#### References:

- 1 Website La Repubblica.it/ 16 July 2018
- 2 Theosophy Wiki [https://theosophy.wiki/en/Wassily\\_Kandinsky](https://theosophy.wiki/en/Wassily_Kandinsky)
- 3 Noise, Visual Arts and the Occult by Luciano Chessa
- 4 Theosophy Wiki

Compiled by Janice Scarabottolo

If something is invisible this generally means that we cannot see it. This is not so in occultism, where a thing is not absolutely invisible but only relatively so to the ordinary capacity of our senses.

Therefore we can have, and we do have, painters of the invisible who give us precious models of the astral world - works of art created by intuition with the help of the invisible.

Carlo Ballatore—Ultra,  
Rome, 1909



Balla: Abstract Speed  
(public domain)



**The Theosophical Order of Service**  
**Representing theosophy in action on a daily basis**  
**The TOS was founded by Annie Besant in February 1908**

This current financial year to date we have held two book stalls and one brunch in Canberra. Together with the receipt of a substantial donation from one interstate friend, this gives us enough funds to start off the calendar year in a healthy way.

Read more about TOS at the National website <http://australia.theoservice.org/> and internationally <http://australia.theoservice.org/international.html>

Thank you, all our friends, who make the donations possible—to help those suffering and in need.

From The Canberra TOS team.

### The Past Year

As reported at the Branch AGM, in the financial year 2017-18 Canberra TOS made donations of \$990 to TOS international project.

We continued our support of the Pakistan Educational Programme by annually sponsoring the education of one student.



We sent donations to Olcott Memorial school, Besant Veterinary Clinic- Adyar, Women's Social Welfare Group - Adyar, Syrian refugees, The Pakistan Home Schools project, Golden Link College, Philippines.

Your continuing assistance is needed to keep supporting TOS projects in the next financial year. TOS gives all the funds to the projects with no money being used for anything except the project. TOS projects work for those in need and who would often be without education, as in the case of the Pakistan Home Schools. These home schools provide education to boys and girls and need the commitment of Australia and others, to keep going.

**Let us help.**

### Carolyn Harrod—a Tribute



We farewell dear friend, Carolyn Harrod, who passed to peace on 15 October 2018.

Carolyn was a long-time indefatigable worker, organiser, administrator, educator, and lots more, in TOS and held positions as National Coordinator and National Treasurer. Her positive, friendly and cheerful spirit were paramount and known to all who met her.

Carolyn will be missed, not only in her native Brisbane, but all over Australia and internationally for her friendship and the long standing work done for TOS, to which we pay tribute.

## THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN CANBERRA—PROGRAMME 2019

Day	Date	Speaker	Topic
<b>SATURDAY</b> 2.00pm— 4.00pm, ANU	16 February	Marie McArdle President, Canberra Branch of the Theosophical Society	Discovery of the outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, and their influence on human consciousness
<b>SATURDAY</b> 2.00pm— 4.00pm, ANU	16 March	Gerard Brennan	The ACT/NSW Representative— Gerard Brennan—will lead discussion on <i>Karma</i> and <i>ACT TS issues</i>
<b>SATURDAY</b> 2.00pm— 4.00pm, ANU	13 April	Gordon Herbert and Birthe Ross	<i>What is the Soul?</i> and <i>Soul Care</i>
<b>SATURDAY</b> 2.00pm— 4.00pm, ANU	18 May	To be advised	To be advised
<b>SATURDAY</b> 2.00pm— 4.00pm, ANU	15 June	To be advised	To be advised

**(ANU = Emeritus Faculty, 24 Balmain Crescent, ACTON)**

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**NOTE: From February 2019 until June 2019**

**Meetings will be held at the  
Emeritus Faculty, ANU, 24 Balmain Crescent  
generally on the third Saturday of each month  
but please check the programme.**

**During this period NO meetings will be held at the Friends' Meeting House, Turner.**

**A programme review will be held mid-year and information will be  
circulated to keep you updated on the meetings, the programme  
and the venue for the second half of the year.**

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