



# Australian T.O.S. Links

August 2017

## Coordinators Mid-year Report - Jean Carroll

Welcome to our winter report.

As the end of our financial year approaches on 31Aug our groups have been busy finalising fundraising and forwarding their contributions for our National Projects. For the first time this year we adopted a programme with the Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) Italy in supporting refugees. This project has resonated with the heart of many of our members and friends; due to this generosity of spirit National TOS is able to forward a grand total of \$10,450 for support of this humane project. \$2000 being sent immediately when the project was endorsed following our AGM in Jan 2017.

**Get involved in Service:** The roll out for our constitution changes has begun. We have now called for nominations to elect our National Management Committee: National Coordinator: National Secretary: and National Treasurer. This lengthy process will be finalised at our AGM in Brisbane Jan.2018, whereby for the first time democratic elections will be held replacing our previous tradition of appointments. Nominations for positions close 30 Sep. Check with your local TOS representative for details.

Our TOS fundraiser tour of Southern India to coincide with the Theosophical Societies International Convention at Adyar is now closed with a total number of twenty seven passengers. I look forward to putting Theosophy into practice as we travel together throughout southern India.

**World Congress further details and booking form at [www.singaporelodge.org/tswc2018.htm](http://www.singaporelodge.org/tswc2018.htm)**

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## World Congress Update; Join TS & TOS In Singapore August 2018

. The eleventh World Congress of the Theosophical Society will be held in Singapore at the Ramada Hotel Congress Hall and adjacent rooms from 04-09 August 2018

(recommended check in from 03 Aug as the opening ceremony commences AM on 04 August).

The TS Congress will be followed immediately by the International Conference of TOS 09-11 Aug at the same venue.

There is a choice of two hotels, Ramada 4\* or Days Hotel 3\* - **The park pictured below separates these two adjacent hotels**



The cost for 8 nights accommodation, 03-11Aug including breakfast, lunch, dinner & congress registration is:

### **Ramada Hotel 4\* accommodation**

- Twin share SGD\$1718 per person
- Single SGD\$2378

### **Days Hotel 3\* accommodation**

- Twin share SGD\$1530 per person
- Single SGD2095

A deposit of SGD\$100 will secure registration for both events, there are only 300 spaces for the Congress, please book early to avoid disappointment.

## Reports from national groups

### Canberra: Janice Scarabottolo

Our small Canberra TOS meets four times in the year. The TOS group meetings follow on from a study group and begin with a short meditation. We continue to study Phillip Harris' book *The Spiritual Path to Complete fulfilment*". The TOS group meetings embrace the three arms of theosophy – study, meditation and service.

During our past financial year we gave a TOS presentation to TS in February 2016. Barbara Harrod gave a Power-point presentation of the TOS tour to Cambodia and Janice Scarabottolo gave an overview of the TOS international projects by Power- point. We held a fund raising brunch at Broadbean café in February 2016; TOS and TS members enjoyed each other's company.

Through the educational sponsorship programme, we continued to support the education of a student in Pakistan - he attends Aney Model Children Academy in Karachi and we wish this student heartfelt success in his studies.



**Teacher Hajra Khatoon using computer for storytelling at Qandeel Home School, Karachi**

We made donations to various TOS projects: The Pakistan Home Schools project; the Golden Link College, Philippines; and the Besant Veterinary Clinic, at Adyar. We donated another small amount to KIVA, a micro-financing company which lends to disadvantaged people.

Barbara Harrod has continued to buy items for Mission without Borders and has been a focal point for collecting warm winter clothing and blankets which (for quarantine regulations) must be new, to send to disadvantaged persons overseas. She has also knitted items for this organisation. We also sent used stamps to Guide Dogs Tasmania. We promote TOS work through a page

dedicated to TOS in the Canberra TS newsletter, highlighting the projects and activities, and by having our small wicker "collection" basket at TS public meetings, bringing TOS to the awareness of everyone, also to those who are not TS members. Our thanks go to everyone who has contributed to these projects.

### Mornington Peninsula; Alice Oppen:

At our Sunday TS meetings I read aloud sections of interest from the Australian and International TOs Newsletters which I receive by email which are then tabled. Also read are the state newsletters, Perth excel with beautiful presented, original and inspiring content.

We invite donations for our TOS at our Sunday afternoon monthly TS reunions which were forwarded to TOS Australia and these totalled \$1,190. I thank all our TS members and visitors who donate. We also collect donations from Georgina Fodes monthly *Mandella Healing Art* group held in our local library in Mornington. This totalled \$1000.

Special thanks to Georgina for her enthusiastic dedication and skills in running these popular workshops. These attract around 20 people including TS members and the public, even children. They pay \$5, half of this total amount goes to the Olcott Memorial School at Adyar and the remaining half to the Golden Link College in the Philippines, via the American Kern Foundation which matches our donation. The total amount donated for our financial year 2016-2017 was \$1,190.00.

### **Theosophy is Altruism:**

**For the altruist who seeks nothing for himself and "lives to benefit mankind" there are no internal problems. When there is only one thing to be accomplished namely the good of all, the mind is relaxed, harmonious and clear. Therefore it can be said of the altruist as of the yogi that he is ever content. The altruistic mind heals and benefits all who come in contact with him. The altruistic mind is in fact the practical man and altruism is the practical way for humanity to advance.**

**Radha Burnier – The World Around Us**

## Your Stories: The process of service Advice from Annie Besant



First, men do action for self-gratification, there only progress in experience is gained; then they learn to do it as duty, and so they begin to practise Yoga in daily life; lastly they do it as a joyful sacrifice for which they ask nothing back, but give every power they possess for the accomplishment of the work. And in this way, union is accomplished.

We understand what is meant by purification when we notice these stages of self-gratification, of doing duty as duty, of giving everything as a free-will sacrifice. These are stages of the path of purification.

We must be pure in life, compassionate, and tender; we must learn to see the Self in every one around us, in the ugly as well as in the beautiful, in the low as well as the high, in the plant as well as in the Deva. He who sees the Self in everything, and all things in the Self, he seeth, verily, he seeth.

## Advice from the Dali Lama



If an individual has sufficient spiritual base, he will not let himself become overwhelmed by the lure of technology and by the madness of possession. He or she will know how to find the right balance, without asking far too much, and know how to say: I have a camera, that's enough, I don't want another. The constant danger is to open the door to greed, one of our relentless enemies. It is here that the real work of the mind is put into practice.

## Report from TOS Assam and Arunachal Region India

Brother Jatindra Nath Patowary president of the abovementioned TOS recently sent a souvenir booklet of their Annual General Meeting held in June this year in Assam. He expressed his delight of TOS Australia helping in their Mobility Aid Project which provided funds towards three wheel chairs, five hearing aids, and one walker amongst smaller items to help the physically and mentally handicapped and underprivileged people in Assam and Arunachal. Brisbane TOS are our main donors from Australia . . . A financial statement was received substantiating that TOS National had contributed 36,780.00 rupees towards their budget of 51,244 rupees. Well done Brisbane TOS.



In addition the Assam TOS fund a TS School which supports quote; - *Children are picked up from marshy land or below poverty line. TOS provide one year's free coaching with free books and study material and then able students are sent to regular L.P.School. Thus the illiterate children from illiterate parents are brought to literacy*

If any other TOS group or any TS or TOS member would like to contribute this humane project please send donations to TOS Australia (details on last page).

## Syrian Refugee Project Report from TOS Italy.

We have always suffered because of wars, and the Syrian conflict with so many fleeing refugees seemed like a reminder of the responsibilities to which it was impossible not to respond. We asked ourselves together with the whole theosophical group how we could help, how we could achieve that all embracing brotherhood which is our First Object.



In 2012 we started with some associations to collect medicines, food and clothing to be sent directly to those affected Populations.

The war has since escalated and in September 2015 a human flood got to Europe via the Balkan route and the Italian coast: thousands of desperate men, of women with very young children, of elderly, of disabled with no shoes or shelter from cold. In those tragic days we made friends with Gaetano Turrini and Feras Garabawy, founders of the charity 'SperanzaHope for Children', and we started working actively in fundraising and sending material.



The latter met Dr Ali Nasser in the refugee camp of Bab al Salam on the Turkish border in Syria. Dr Nasser is a refugee, he's a surgeon and a paediatrician, who is married and has five young daughters. Our collaboration resulted in the construction of a small paediatric clinic, the only one within the camp. Today Dr Ali, in addition to his medical work, helps to coordinate aid both for the refugees in the camp and for those who are outside in the Turkish town of Kilis. There are a lot of them, and they live in unbearable conditions.



**A typical refugee camp**



**Sharing wood a basic commodity**

This financial year TOS National will have sent a total amount of \$10,450 to TOS Italy to assist with helping these desperate people. This project excelled all expectations, thank you all for the hard work in arriving at this magnificent total.

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