



Australian T.O.S. Links

March 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

Highlights

- Italian TOS Syrian Refugee Project
- TOS AGM conducted in Brisbane
- World Congress 2018 & TOS 4th International Conference

Thank you to the outgoing TOS Committee.

The TOS held its AGM in January 2018 during the Brisbane convention. After seven years (and more) of service to the TOS **Jean Carroll** (National Coordinator), **Travis James** (National Secretary) and **Carolyn Harrod** (National Treasurer) have stepped down. For many years, they have dedicatedly set the direction of the TOS, building a strong TOS presence in Australia. Jean has actively encouraged the building of an Australian community. She has helped our far-flung states link together via newsletters and email. Encouraging us to share ideas, nurture friendships and foster a sense of community and TOS ideals.

This outgoing committee has diligently provided the vision and the unsung background work. The work that keeps the TOS functioning. There have been two re-writes of the constitution; and consistent and thorough management of the financial affairs of the TOS.

We value their knowledge and experience and we hope that they will mentor the new committee as it starts its journey.

We owe this committee a debt of gratitude and on behalf of the Australian TOS, I say Thank you, thank you.

Welcome to the New Committee

I wish to welcome the new committee. Our secretary is **George Wester** from WA and many of you will already know him from his travels around Australia and to Adyar.

Dianne Manning, from Queensland, is our new Treasurer. She brings extensive business experience to the role and I am grateful that she stepped forward.

Geoff Harrod, the Web Administrator, lives in Queensland. Geoff has managed the TOS website for many years and he has agreed to continue with these duties, which is great because I am fairly sure the rest of us would be pushed to fill the role.

Italian Syrian Refugee Project

During my recent visit to Adyar, I had the privilege of meeting representatives of the Italian TOS. They were 2 young sisters-in-law who are organising the Syrian Refugee Project. Last year, as Europe was overwhelmed with masses of people fleeing war, they stepped into action. This has been recorded in previous TOS newsletters and the Australian TOS members opened their hearts and sent AUD\$9,000.

Stefania and Sandra (the sisters-in-law) explained, through an interpreter, that their drive to help wore them out. They were overwhelmed by the need and suffering. This year they have changed their approach. They will help 30 Syrian refugee families in extreme need. They will give each family 30 Euros per month. They need to raise 900 Euros (approx. AUD\$1,500) per month. This is a huge commitment and I am sure that we Australians can help again.

Their first project for this year was coal for winter. You may remember that this year's European winter was called the "Beast from the East". That doesn't sound good. Below is an extract from the Italian TOS newsletter

Winter Coal Project

Our key commitment is to children and to help alleviate childhood poverty, abandoned or tormented by war.

The opening project for 2018, but which in effect started last December, has been named Emergenza freddo a Kilis (Cold emergency at Kilis). This Turkish city close to the Syrian border, just 50 kms from Aleppo, has seen its population triple in the last few years due to the arrival of Syrian refugees. The city is unable to adequately accommodate them, and the refugees live in garages in the suburbs, in abandoned shops or other makeshift places in inhumane conditions, with not much food and without basic services or heating. The children are often ill with sometimes fatal consequences.

The aim of this project is to find a solution to the problem caused by the cold for at least 30 families from the poorest, those with small children and/or disabled persons. To do so, we need a monthly distribution of coal during the three most crucial months: December, January, February. These families are depending on us. We are certain that, with your support and generosity we shall succeed in letting them know that they are not alone, and as well as the warmth from the fire they will feel the warmth of our embrace.

The Bread Project

Bread, a staple food, in war becomes a still more precious commodity; not all families have access to it, especially those who no longer have the head of the family. There are many women in Syria, who are on their own; and with no assistance they must provide for their children, who on average, are five per family.

The "bread project" aims to support some widows who have small children, by providing free daily bread to them for one year. They will receive a card entitling them to get 2 kg of bread daily (= 1 euro) at the single bakery which is still operational.

**Let us help these children, taking peace and bread to them;
War must not be their daily bread.**

Italian TOS Syrian articles by **Sandra Sartori** and **Stefania Schiavo**. TOS Italy.

NOTE: Stefania and Sandra will visit Kilis, Turkey on 28 March and will meet the 30 families. They have promised to send the Australian TOS photos because of our interest and hoped for support. (Heartfelt "Thank you" to **Janice Scarabottolo**, Canberra TOS, for translating both Italian articles.)

Bodhi Tree at the Manor, Sydney



(Photo: Bodhi Tree with **Richard Larkin**, TOS President and **Lucille Crocker**, TOS Treasurer both from Blavatsky Lodge)

On a rainy Sunday, 5 November 2017, the TOS Sydney was very pleased to present a plaque in honour of the Bodhi tree that bestows its blessings on The Manor.

The plaque read: *“This tree is a direct descendant of the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya under which the Buddha became enlightened. In 1976 it was brought to The Manor as a sapling from Saigon by two Vietnamese monks. Its progenitor was originally taken to Vietnam from Bodh Gaya by Dr George Arundale.”*

This was a very small affair, which included **Linda Oliveria** (National TS President), **Dianne Kynaston** (Head of The Manor), **Pedro Oliveira** (National TS Education Coordinator), **Richard Larkin** (TOS President), **Lucille Crocker** (TOS Treasurer) and some residents of The Manor.

We hope that the tree is restored to health promptly and it can shine its light to welcome many Theosophical pilgrims for hundreds of years to come.

Article by **Lucille Crocker**

We wish **Henny Fokker**, a TS member from Canberra, a speedy recovery from a stroke she suffered just after the Brisbane convention and prior to returning home.
Our love and best wishes go to **Henny** and her husband **Peter**.

2018 World Congress and 4th TOS International Conference

Singapore is the venue for this year's World Congress and TOS Conference, which will be held from 4 August to 11 August 2018.

It is sure to be a fabulous event and an opportunity to met old friends and make new friends from all over the World. The Singapore TS/TOS has put in a huge effort and found good venues with two levels of accommodation.

Registrations close on 1 April 2018. If you wish to attend, please act now. Go to the website in the poster below.



11th World Congress of The Theosophical Society
4th - 9th August 2018, Singapore
4th TOS International Conference
9th - 11th August 2018, Singapore
Venue: Ramada and Days Hotel, Singapore



The 11th World Congress of the TS
Accommodation at Days Hotel (★★★)
SGD\$1,165 for twin-sharing or SGD\$1,589 for single occupancy room
Accommodation at Ramada Hotel (★★★★)
SGD\$1,306 for twin-sharing or SGD\$1,801 for single occupancy room
3-9 August 2018; inclusive of conference fee, breakfast, lunch and dinner

The 4th TOS International Conference
Accommodation at Days Hotel (★★★)
SGD\$365 for twin-sharing or SGD\$506 for single occupancy room
Accommodation at Ramada Hotel (★★★★)
SGD\$412 for twin-sharing or SGD\$577 for single occupancy room
9-11 August 2018; inclusive of conference fee, breakfast, lunch and dinner

For more information on the venue, go to
singaporelodge.org/tswc2018.htm



Sacred Sights Tour of India – January 2018

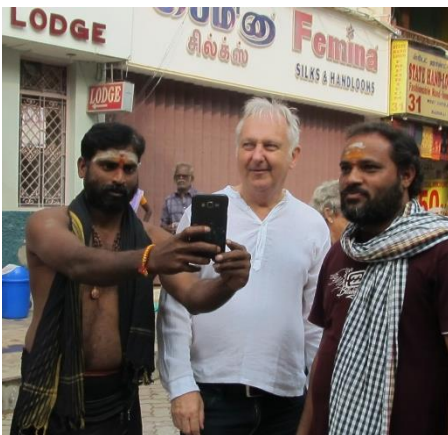
Once again, we need to thank **Jean Carroll** for the amazing holiday that she arranged for 28 people from the TOS and TS. We attended the International TS convention in Adyar followed by a bus trip through Southern India. We went to many places where there were no tourists, just us and the locals. The local Indian people embraced us with friendship and good wishes. They regularly threw us kisses and asked for selfies, much to our amazement. Jean had organised excellent tour staff and local guides.

Dr Olga Gostin was on this trip and has written her reflections on the journey. You will find this article on the Australian TOS web site at this link

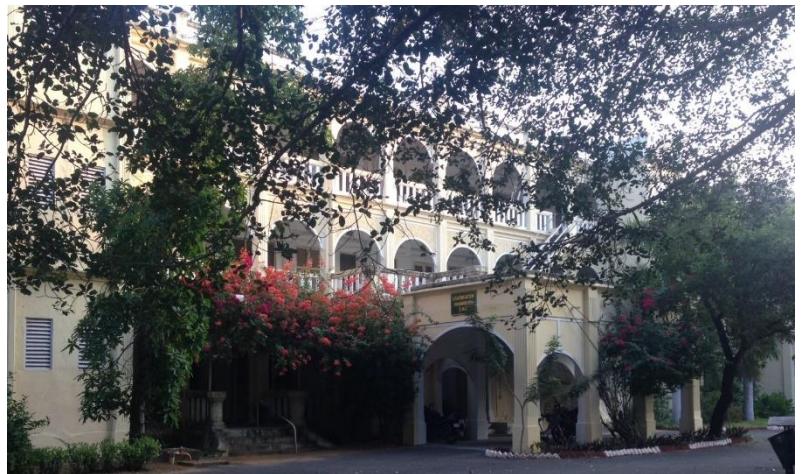
[http://australia.theoservice.org/news/2018-India-tour-report\(olga\).pdf](http://australia.theoservice.org/news/2018-India-tour-report(olga).pdf)



Part of the Australian Group in Adyar



Paul and the Pilgrims



View of the Leadbeater Chambers



Future Plans

We plan to develop procedures to enable our Australia wide committee to function effectively. And if technology allows, we will hold quarterly Committee meetings using Skype conference calls.

We will investigate the possibility of increasing the number of members on the committee. If you have skills that you would like to volunteer, please contact me. Our Facebook account needs a volunteer to manage it.

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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A wise person once said that Enlightenment does not bring Happiness, Enlightenment brings Truth.