

THE LINK

THE JOURNAL OF TOC H AUSTRALIA

ISSUE NO. 3 – APRIL 2020



Caring communities are built on values like compassion and caring; kindness and generosity and Toc H is all about building caring communities and caring for people.

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

I am writing this message at a time when our country, and in fact the whole world, is going through something none of us have ever experienced before – the COVID-19 pandemic. Any specific details I quote will be out of date within a few short days, but just to give you some idea of the situation at the time of writing this, I will quote some facts and figures from countries where Toc H is currently active.

In Belgium, there have been more than 2,000 deaths from COVID-19. Talbot House, where Toc H originated, has had to close, unfortunately at a time when they were just about to open a wonderful new exhibition on the story of Talbot House and the birth of the Toc H movement, featuring more than 500 never before displayed artefacts. The closure has made their financial situation very difficult, and an urgent appeal has been initiated. Details are on the Toc H Australia web site, with an article in this Link; I encourage Toc H members and branches to help if they are able.

I have less specific information on how Toc H is faring in other countries, but the Covid19 statistics are sobering. In the UK, there were almost 1,000 COVID-19 deaths in *one day* – yesterday! Figures for South Africa show almost 2,000 cases with 18 deaths. Recorded numbers in Zimbabwe, which has gone through difficult times for many years, are currently low (11 confirmed, 3 deaths), but likely to increase. In India, confirmed cases are almost 6,000 with deaths nearing 200, and numbers expected to increase. Toc H in Cochin runs a wonderful education facility with a school and university.

In Australia, numbers of new cases are declining, and to date we have more than 6,000 cases and 50 deaths – lower than many countries, due to our comparative isolation and the early imposition of movement restrictions and social distancing. The implications for Toc H and all our members are significant, with many of our programs and activities postponed, members affected through job loss or the economic downturn, and social isolation impacting many of our elderly members. For a summary of these impacts, please read my message on the Toc H Australia web site.

In all of this, we need to remember that Toc H and its members have been through challenging times before. In previous editions of the Link, we have described the incredibly difficult times many Toc H members went through in WW2 as prisoners of the Japanese on the Thai-Burma Railway and in Changi prison; a number of them formed Toc H branches in Changi. In a recent email regarding the difficult situation at Talbot House, Manager Simon Louagie noted that 'in 1918, Tubby defied over 10 military orders before moving 1 mile further and continuing in a hut. In 1940, the same all over'.

Every cloud has a silver lining. Many older members of Toc H will remember our parents teaching us that challenges can also have good outcomes by producing

perseverance and growth. Paul noted this almost 2,000 years ago in Romans 5:3-4 'we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, character; and character, hope.' While James wrote 'Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.'

So I encourage all members and supporters of Toc H in Australia to remain positive, stay safe, follow all Government guidance, and do everything we can to keep our movement active by reaching out to the needy, lonely and marginalised whilst still maintaining total compliance with the COVID-19 health guidelines. Pray for those going through suffering, mourning, loneliness and hardship. Share any ideas you have that might enable other Toc H members to continue being 'people helping people'. In time, this will all pass, and we want Toc H to have made a difference and come out stronger and well prepared to help make a bright new future for all.

Yours in Toc H
Dr. Owen Nichols
National Director, Toc H Australia

FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Not one of us has experienced a time such as now. An enormous number of community activities are on hold. It is not possible for members to have meetings face to face and many of us have been advised that we should not leave home even to shop. Those of us over seventy are not able to leave our homes and need others to run errands for us. Many people, young and old, are very concerned about the future and wonder how things will be when the immediate crisis has passed.

We cannot predict the future, but there is little doubt that our society and our nation will find life is not the same as it was. For the churches, and for many individuals and businesses, there is the challenge of meeting ongoing expenses and ensuring we have enough income over the coming months. One of our sons-in-law is a professional violinist who has had cancellations of performances worth \$10,000. Many others are in a similar boat and many businesses have closed.

How should we as members of Toc H respond to what is happening? It seems to me that in addition to heeding the directions of those in authority the four points of the compass provide some excellent guidelines:

- *To Love Widely* – We can show a spirit of friendship through the internet, by phone and pray with special intention for people who live on their own. We can take

care to reach out to those of other races or religions in a similar way. We can see the needs of others as our own.

- *To Build Bravely* – If we are healthy and under seventy we can run errands and shop for the elderly. We might even mow someone's lawn.
- *To Think Fairly* – We can listen to others and keep in touch with them. By means of reading we can broaden our sympathies and understanding of others irrespective of race, culture or creed.
- *To Witness Humbly* – In our thinking, our praying and in relating to others we can recall that every member of the human race has been created in the image and likeness of God.

One of my prayers is that Covid 19 will draw us closer together (even though physically isolated) and that our sense of community will be strengthened. When the pandemic is past we will be presented with a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the truth that we belong to one another and that we must never simply focus on ourselves.

I pray for every member of Toc H and I pray that God will use us to be a blessing to our fellow human beings.

+ *David McCall*

OPENLIGHT SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The previous 12 months has represented some of the most significant changes for our organisation in many years. As the Board have focused on the implementation of our strategic plan, operationally we have focused much attention on achieving a contemporary purpose of “strengthening communities through service”.

It is clear, that Toc H SA Inc/Openlight has as much relevance today as we did over 100 years ago, what is also true, is translating this into contemporary practice takes time, effort, patience, resilience and kindness. Of great significance was our decision to introduce a new brand to Toc H SA Inc that matched our current personality, beliefs and future focus. After a great deal of internal and external consultation, the decision to launch Openlight to our members, customers, friends and other stakeholders was made earlier this year. A milestone worth celebrating.

Throughout 2019 a major operational focus has been to increase the financial stability and viability of our social enterprise asset – The Openlight Campsite. Many changes have been made to the camp, including the introduction of full catering service, now making a major financial contribution to our success, together with site improvements, new policies and procedures. The number of campers utilising our camp has never been higher and this is resulting in continued financial success.

While we have been working hard on financial stability, we have also been privileged to introduce many new service groups to the Openlight family. We are thrilled to be able to support and develop many new programs that meet the Toc H SA vision and ethos.

With our services now including:

- **Openlight Youth** – programs for youth in need for over 80 years, designed to help young people from a wide range of situations develop self-regulation skills, form positive relationships with their peers, make healthy choices, build self-esteem, and develop positive community attitudes.
- Jumbunna** – respite and advocacy for caregivers where a family member has a disability.
- The Shift** – a collaboration between Victor Harbor High School and The Rotary Club of Unley supporting young adults at risk of disengaging from society.
- Victor Harbor Community Garden** – social, recreational and wellbeing programs for the community.
- Scrub Savers and Bushland Nursery** – ecofriendly initiatives to protect and serve our environment
- Camp 38** – camps for families with an autistic member
- Openlight Campsite** – providing affordable group style accommodation and recreational services to 1000's of South Australians each year

The last 12 months have been ambitious and the next 12 months plan to be more of the same. With the development of new programs, we continue to provide social, wellness and recreational programs to people in need in our communities.



Openlight – an initiative of Toc H South Australian Inc Parkside Office (Adelaide)



*Community gathering to support the launch of Openlight.
Dr Patrick Korbel (Chair) addressing the group.*

THE SHIFT

In looking to the future, the Openlight Board of Directors recently participated in a planning session lead by CEO Adam Hooper in contemporary service delivery aligned to Government funding models – particularly the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

With an ever increasing need to support young adults in our community to make the transition from school to adult life, particularly those at risk of disengagement, the foundation of an exciting program was set in late 2019. In support of our approach – being called “Openlight – The Shift” a new program/branch has been formed to ensure a committed focus is made. “The Shift” represents a shift in community and individual attitude and perception of young adults at risk of disengaging from society to make a genuine and meaningful contribution to our community, both socially and economically.

The Shift – lead by volunteer Program Directors Stacey Andary and Adam Hooper will represent a tailored approach to community participation, based on evidence-based models of support and individual participation. Participants of The Shift will contribute to the day to day operations of our social enterprise (Campsite) and social services (Community Garden Youth Services, Scrub Savers and Jumbunna) as they learn important skills of community and workplace participation.

Focused on wellbeing and personal development, fundamental to making the shift from school to workplace and community participation. Already participants have contributed to the success of the Openlight Youth Camps by volunteering their time to cater (cook meals) for the children – with great success.

Thanks to a very generous \$5,000 sponsorship by Rotary Club of Unley, a pilot program was launched in February 2020, where 10 participants are project managing the renovation of the Campsite Recreation Room to a new Interactive Educational facility. This is a joint community partnership with Rotary Club of Unley, with many of their members volunteering alongside The Shift participants.

We cannot thank the Rotary Club of Unley enough for their support, encouragement and participation in this program.



The Shift participants “pitching” to members of Rotary Club of Unley for grant funding.



The Shift participants renovating the interactive recreation room at the Openlight Campsite at Victor Harbor SA

HELPING DRUG ADDICTS IN VIETNAM TO RECOVER

For more than 20 years, Toc H Australia ran annual Youth Leadership Training Courses for young people from around Australia. This gave them a wide range of useful skills including teamwork, self-confidence, effective communication, setting and achieving goals, and others.

Paster Jacob Ho, a recovered drug addict, runs Bethesda House in Hanoi, Vietnam. At any one time, up to 20 recovering drug addicts (RDAs) live in the house and are undergoing treatment based on the “Celebrate Recovery’ 12 step program. Treatment is tough but compassionate, with addicts having to spend the first two weeks detoxing while they are shut in a room with one support person, and only allowed out for meals, bathroom and study. But the results are very good, with most successfully recovering.

Xuyen has had a very tough life – addiction, time in prison, separation from his family, and suffering a debilitating stroke. But after spending time at Bethesda House, he is well on the road to recovery, and has a wonderful positive outlook and friendly personality.



Xuyen receives his certificate from Owen and Flora Nichols

For several years Toc H members have provided some financial support for Bethesda House. Following discussions with Pastor Jacob, we agreed that the RDAs would benefit from a one-day training course that included key elements of the Toc H Youth Leadership Training Course. So, on Monday 4 November 2019, with 7 friends from Bridgeman Baptists Community Church, we ran a training course for 13 RDA's. For a teamwork exercise, the guys were asked to form teams of four, including one helper from our group, and build a bridge using pop sticks. The bridge had to then pass a working test with a model train. Helpers were only allowed to assist if asked, and of course there was a language barrier they had to deal with. At the end of the exercise, attendees' bridges were marked, with prizes for the best, and attendees had to describe how effective their teamwork had been, and how they could do better.



Building bridges needs teamwork!

Other topics covered included developing confidence, positive thinking, leadership and goal setting. Some attendees were asked what they hoped to be doing in five years, and most answered 'helping other addicts.' So, the thinking that Bethesda House is installing in these young men is likely to bear fruits for many years to come.

At the end of the day, attendees received a certificate confirming they had completed the course. Pastor Jacob (back row, second from right) assured us that this would mean a lot to the RDAs. As you can see, many are smiling – they are the ones well on the way to recovery. Others are still taking their first steps towards recovery.

Attendees who completed the course



Pastor Jacob is hoping to build a permanent home for Bethesda House, and some of us are looking into ways of helping. If you would like more information, please contact Toc H.

YOUTH SERVICES

It's been a huge year for the Youth Services team. Following the launch of our shiny new Openlight branding, we saw an increase in referrals of children to the program. Many of our volunteers took up full membership of Toc H South Australia within our newly formed Youth Services Branch.

Volunteers, encouraged by the modern branding and contemporary narrative we are building, are choosing to take on bigger roles within the camping program and the wider organisation. I would like to make a special mention of Taylor Petty, who is working with a sub-committee of Youth Services volunteers to build a brand-new youth program aimed at socially isolated teens. It is great to see our volunteers inspired by the movement. We particularly love the new T-Shirts and they have been a great tool to make everyone feel like they're "part of the club". The signage and branding are attracting great conversations when we're out and about in the community - people want to know who we are and what we're doing.

In 2019, we provided over 100 children with an experience they otherwise might not have had. I would like to thank our entire team of volunteers for the tireless effort that they continue to put into our program. A long, long time ago, our camp-directing predecessors popped fifty kids into the back of a flatbed truck and drove them to camp with the wind in their hair. We are quite sure the risk assessment was "she'll be right". Today, running activities for children, especially at-risk children, is an incredibly complex regulatory, logistical practical job. Collecting data on our participants, administering medications, assessing the risks associated with each activity, making sure our volunteers have passed the relevant screening - there's a lot to do.

Our achievements this year would not have been possible without the ongoing support of CEO Adam Hooper and Marketing and Engagement manager Dana O'Brien. They have worked hard to increase donations and corporate sponsorships, meaning fewer overhead costs for the program and as a result - more children that we can help. Additionally, they have worked with the Youth team to provide operational support and developed best practice procedures in our interactions with clients. While doing all of that, they've helped us to extend our network of volunteers, referring agencies and support services, created a new stream of young catering volunteers, and built us an information system that can keep track of it all. I give my greatest thanks on behalf of both the board and the Youth Services team to our office staff.

Our December camp was another successful camp. The camp had 24 children referred through our various channels. A lot of the children we are currently receiving for our camps are on the autism spectrum or from trauma backgrounds and this camp was no different. Volunteer numbers were great.

Our summer camp was also the first time we had The Shift Program fully integrated into the operations. The Shift program worked on all catering and hospitality aspects of the camp including having activities set up for when our eager campers arrived. Our Camp Leaders worked with the children on activities and events such as aquatic visits, shopping trips. As the weather was hot there was plenty of free time that the children took full advantage of taking off on bikes, water activities, crafts and much more.

While we are disappointed our Autumn camp cannot go ahead due to COVID 19 restrictions, we look forward to coming back with an extra special camp adventure for those referred children that missed out and others in need after such a traumatic moment in time.



Openlight Youth and The Shift Volunteers supporting the Summer Camp 2019.



Colourfully decorated cupcakes are a favourite at every youth camp.

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

CAMP 38

Openlight recognises that families with a member who has an Autism spectrum disorder (ASD), an Autistic young person, often find it difficult to enjoy an authentic social, recreational and wellbeing focused respite-based holiday where all members of the family gain benefit.

The specific needs of autistic young people can lead to judgement by others in social and recreational environments, making it hard to enjoy the real benefits and outcomes achieved by others in similar situations.

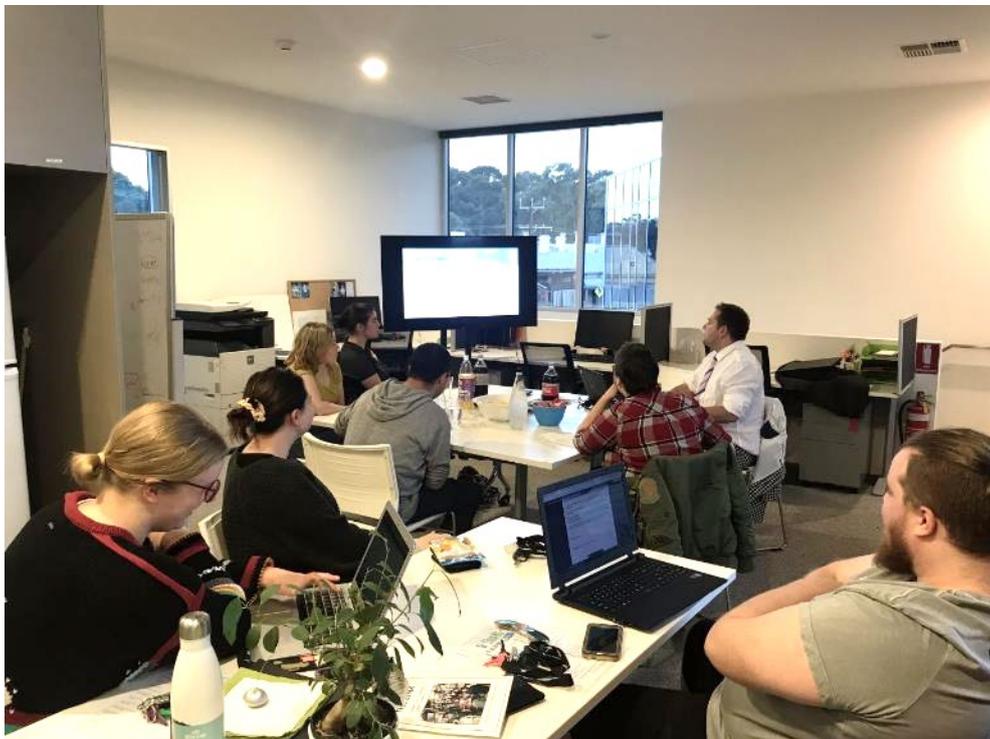
Creating a supported respite-break experiences, inclusive of therapies and life skills development in a safe and enjoyable environment where participants and their families can hang out with other young autistic people and their families is the primary goal of Openlight - Camp 38. Operating within a tailor-made program centred on capacity building, social learning and life skills – while being looked after by carers (paid and volunteer) that really understand the lived experience of autism will centre our thinking and program design principles.

While the needs of autistic young people (AYP) is central to the development of the camping program, it also recognises that siblings of AYP need the opportunity to feel special too. Often missing out on shared family experiences in favour of individual activities. Camp 38 holds strongly the focus of social, recreational and wellbeing in the lives of siblings as essential to the success of the family unit.

Camp 38 understands the need for parents and primary care givers to have an opportunity to care for themselves. Creating a place where the needs of the family are catered for, while enjoying some physical and mental self-care and the chance to recharge, share stories and successes while focusing on the future.

Camp 38, an initiative of Openlight is the first Autistic Young Person – family focused respite camp in South Australia and brings together the best of three of our programs Openlight Youth, Jumbunna and The Shift setting our sights for real benefits of a supported respite-break experience, therapies and life skills development over a 5 night – 4 day, lived in authentic camp experience.

Recently planning for our first camp in September was undertaken by our steering committee, while it looks that the COVID-19 situation may defer the launch of Camp 38, we will be ready to go once the situation changes.



Important training and workshops for our Youth and Camp 38 program are undertaken at the Openlight office at Parkside.

URGENT FUNDRAISING APPEAL FOR TALBOT HOUSE

The following letter was sent to our National Director Dr. Owen Nichols by Simon Louagie, Manager at Talbot House in Poperinge. It is self-explanatory – Talbot House, where Toc H originated, needs financial help – urgently. I encourage all Toc H Australia members and supporters to consider helping. Our heritage is one of the main things that distinguishes us from other community service organisations, and Talbot House is an integral part of that heritage. Details of the letter:

This winter, a new permanent exhibition was set up in the former concert hall of the House. In this new exhibition, we aim at telling the story of Talbot House through the past century. Besides the tales of Talbot House during the war, we also focus on birth of the Toc H movement, the purchase of the House, the occupation during WW2, the final veterans visiting, etc. It showcases some 500 never before displayed artefacts from our archives. Sadly, our opening scheduled for 17 April is also no longer on.

To pay for this new exhibition, a loan was taken out by Talbot House as well. Now, just as our tourism season was getting underway, we had to close because of the current global crisis. We of course fully support these measures. But closing also leaves the House without a much-needed income. Besides the loan that needs to be paid back, we also have some minor staff costs (most people have been placed on an unemployment scheme), energy bills, insurance, services and of course maintenance. With four buildings on site dating back an average of 200 years, lots of things needs to be renovated all the time. We cannot delay most of these as one thing usually is more urgent than the next. The situation is dire and without any significant action, the House would go under by end of the year I expect.

Hence, the Talbot House Association instructed me to start a campaign to try and prevent Talbot House to go under. Firstly, we are cutting all possible costs, checking which government aid packages we can rely on and finally raising much needed funds from the public and sponsorship deals. We expect, if the House would be without an income for a full year, we would require a 100.000 EUR. A full year seems a lot, but we know we've already lost half our annual income. If we cannot reopen by July, we are likely to lose a good part of the other half. From November onwards till March, tourism is

SOS FROM TOC.H.
TALBOT HOUSE
EVERYMANS CLUB
POPERINGHE & YPRES 1915-18.

€ 100,000 IS URGENTLY NEEDED
TO KEEP THIS HOME FROM HOME OPEN

#StandwithTalbotHouse

MEMORIES

#StandwithTalbotHouse on gofundme.com/f/save-talbot-house
Further info on info@talbothouse.be or www.talbothouse.be

very quiet here. A crowd funding initiative with a target of 100,000 Euros has been set up <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-talbot-house> We have already raised just over 10% of this target. Transfers are also made by bank transfer on our Belgian or UK account.

Now, closing Talbot House is something that has never gone down without a fight. In 1918, Tubby defied over 10 military orders before moving 1 mile further and continuing in a hut. In 1940, the same all over. And today, we try to keep the House open virtually online with almost daily updates on our social media and lots of films of stories, tours and blogs. So do tell you members to keep an eye on our facebook and twitter accounts.

More meetings and budget talks are under way here, we constantly try and cut costs. Obviously far more serious things are going down in the world at the moment. But I was reminded by a quote by our founding father the other day when the BBC asked the same question: "To lose that spirit would not have helped to win the war, but would have made it less worth winning.". The world post corona would be a better place with Toc H and Talbot House there to welcome people. Talbot House was a symbol of hope, it's exactly what we need today.

I don't presume anything and do not expect any donations from Australia. I feel as head of Toc H Australia, you are entitled to an update. Any assistance is welcomed, but we live by the Robin Hood Principle by which everyone donates what they can spare. We know Australia has had a few very rough months as well and we are all thinking of you as well. Please feel free to let me know if anyone at Toc H Australia has any more questions. I do advice people to keep an eye on our social media.

I hope to welcome you one day at the birthplace of Toc H in Belgium. Please don't hesitate to let me know if any members do make it over as they would very much receive a warm welcome from us!

Best regards

Simon Louagie, Manager at Talbot House in Poperinge



Manager at Talbot House

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Facebook: Talbot House - Every man's

Twitter: @TalbotHouseTubby

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA



Students from Korea gathered at the home of Mrs and Professor Joseph's home on Christmas Eve and joined in singing favourite Christmas songs. This happy gathering was described by Professor Joseph as "one of life's memorable moments". It was a wonderful example of Toc H in action – by reaching out across the world in true friendship and fellowship.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

On 24 Dec 2019, at 9:41 AM, Jenny Meyer <Toc-H@outlook.com> wrote:

To All of you,

Our wish for all of you this Christmas is to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in peace without persecutions for your faith. May the Lord bless you with abundance and may the New Year ahead hold only joy and prosperity.

After speaking to Mr Phiri from Zimbabwe it has become imperative that we extend our prayers for the people of Zimbabwe who are still, under very difficult circumstances, spreading the Toc H goodwill. The basic necessities of running water, electricity, food and even petrol are very scarce making life in Zimbabwe very difficult. We salute you for persevering where others would have given up. May the New Year bring massive change to the lives of the people of Zimbabwe in a positive and bountiful way.

The Charity Shop in Johannesburg has had a very good year with the staff playing a major role in spreading the Toc H ethos. Toc H Gauteng is growing once again with the youngest member having just turned 21 years of age. A massive drive will be held in the new year to encourage membership.

The Olde House in Port Elizabeth continues to do well and increase in bookings year on year.

With all the unpleasantness of the past two years well and truly put to rest, 2020 will be a time of growth and prosperity for Toc H.

Once again have a Blessed Christmas.

Kind Regards
Jenny Meyers

THE TB HOSPITAL IN THE VALLEY OF A THOUSAND HILLS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Members

I forward this report for your information. I am a trustee of the Con McKenzie Trust which owns the Don McKenzie TB hospital. You will probably recall that his project in fact had international support from Toc H and also major financial contributions from overseas. The trust use the lease payments by the government to operate a bursary scheme for students in medicine, nursing and administration mostly. It is expected that the beneficiaries of the bursary scheme should serve the hospital when they qualify. The trust also operates a scheme for providing the families of patients with food parcels whilst the breadwinner is treated in the hospital. I am also involved in the negotiations for the new lease. This is another project where Toc H had a major impact on TB sufferers and still provides assistance for the patients and their families.

Yours in Toc H
Dion Röder
President, Toc H South Africa

[The full text of the Report referred to in Dion Roder's letter is not printed in this edition of The Link. Suffice it to say that much of it is to do with addressing the sewerage work that needs to be done at the Hospital and the raising of sufficient funds to cover this work.]

TOC H IN THE 21st CENTURY - WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Toc H is sometimes described as "people caring for people".
For Toc H to flourish, we need to increase our membership base.
Toc H has always worked in small groups - where members can get to know each other and work together - in and for the community.
Let's start by looking at what "works" these days.

I have maintained for many years that the fortunes of Toc H related closely to that of the churches

Churches which are flourishing generally have 'small groups' - groups which meet for bible study and support generally`. People in these groups feel supported, comfortable and confident.

Church small groups are not the only small groups which are working well. There are many special interest groups which people are oriented. Think about Men's Sheds, Community Gardens, walking clubs, book clubs, film clubs.

Men's Sheds generally involve retirees who are used to working with their hands in their own shed. Now that they do not have their own shed they may have time on their hands, they can also be quite lonely. Men's Sheds provide opportunities for company, using talents and making something useful.

Community Gardens fulfil a similar need for people who love gardening and need company. Participants can learn from each other or from invited specialists. The goods they produce can be sold or given to charities.

The other groups mentioned provide company for the members but have less opportunity for community benefit.

I know of churches who run a Men's Shed and others who have a Community Garden. These fulfil human needs and are also an opportunity for outreach.

The second thing I want to talk about is "staff". In the years between the wars and for a while after WWII Toc H in Australia had staff, both full and part time, both paid and honorary. In those days Toc H Australia was a branch of Toc H in England, which provided the staff with financial assistance from Australia. It was considered that paid staff were essential for growth. Now, while I don't necessarily agree with that in its entirety, we are desperately short of resources for growth and employing staff is horrendously expensive.

So, what are our options?

As said before, our fortunes tend to parallel the mainstream churches.

Toc H has always been a Christian Movement and, in times past, most branches had Chaplains. In the heydays of Toc H many chaplains had an administrative role in running and developing Toc H.

These days many parishes or churches are struggling to finance a full-time minister - so there may be opportunity for mutual benefit.

So, pulling this all together.

- We need to increase our membership base.
- In the past it was recognised that we needed staff (full time, part time, paid or honorary) to grow.
- We need to develop new 'small groups'. These may be general Toc H units operating in a local area or special purpose groups with outreach into the community. (Toc H Southern Region now has a Community Garden group based at the Victor Harbor Campsite.)
- These groups must maintain the Toc H ethos.
- Both Northern and Southern Regions have access to Chaplaincy Funds which can provide seed funding or better.
- We need to cultivate the churches. To enthuse theological students. To get Toc H into clergy - demonstrating that Toc H can be a means for them to interact with the community.

I hope that this little article may enthuse you about the future of Toc H and generate new ideas. Where there is a will there is a way.

David Hall
Australian Secretary

The Link magazine for February 1953 reports as follows:

"I hope you Toc H men and women are deeply loyal to the Toc H code, and also to your normal Christian Churches. Toc H can be no substitute for Church.

But it can be, and is meant to be, a solid and most fruitful reinforcement. Over 2000 clergy in the United Kingdom have been recruited from our membership. Hundreds of these men who've made their mark and done their bit in lucrative professions, which they abandoned to fulfil God's call. Please do not think that I believe God's call to be confined to clergy! That is nonsense.

God is the senior Partner of mankind in every walk of life which ministers to the true needs of body, mind and spirit. Every man's business, humbly conducted, is part and parcel of God's Holy Will. The Minister, Doctor and Nurse are equally the servants of Christ's love. Well-nigh every honest occupation which helps build good homes, to extend and confirm the good feeling which can advance the peace and understanding which God Almighty, and all races of mankind, is very plainly to the Christian philosopher, a vital contribution to God's Kingdom."

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL APPROVES NEW VERSION OF THE FOUR POINTS OFF THE COMPASS.

All members of Toc H should be familiar with the Four Points of the Compass. It is a requirement of membership that all understand and agree with the ethos as expressed in the Four Points of the Compass. In essence, this is the outward expression of the 'Spirit of Toc H'.

The wording of the Four Points of the Compass originated in the 1920s soon after the granting of the Royal Charter. Since then, it has always been a key principal guiding the development of our Movement's approach to practical service and caring for others.

Over time, variations of the wording of the Four Points of the Compass have developed. As the custodian of the Toc H Movement in Australia, Australia Council decided it was necessary to clarify the situation and produce an agreed wording. This was formally adopted at the Council's meeting on 14 October 2019, with the now official version shown below. All Members of Toc H in Australia are encouraged to use this version when referring to the Four Points of The Compass for any reason, and particularly when explaining Toc H to others who are interested in and might be encouraged to join our Movement.

THE FOUR POINTS OF THE COMPASS

FRIENDSHIP - TO LOVE WIDELY

Members are called on:

To welcome all in friendship

To lessen the prejudices which so often keep people apart

To see the needs of others as their own

SERVICE - TO BUILD BRAVELY

Members are called on:

To study local, national and international conditions and their effects on others.

To give personal service, and by their example, to challenge others to seek the way of Christ and build a better world.

FAIRMINDEDNESS - TO THINK FAIRLY

Members are called on:

To listen to the view of others.

To develop and be true to their own convictions.

To influence public opinion so that conflict may be lessened by sympathetic and intelligent understanding.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD - TO WITNESS HUMBLY

Toc H members are called on:

To acknowledge the spiritual nature of all people.

To always seek the truth and be truthful in all things.

To work for a better world by demonstrating the Christian values of friendship, service and fair-mindedness.

This version of the Four Points of the Compass was developed from previous versions by the Australian Council of Toc H and approved for use throughout Australia on 14/10/2019.

GENERAL MEMBERS BRANCH

JOHN WESLEY GARDEN VISIT – GEEBUNG November 2019

A Christmas concert was held for the residents of John Wesley Gardens Retirement Home. Once again, the MLOC singers presented a very good variety of songs, including many well-known Christmas Carols.

We had a fantastic attendance with 46 residents thoroughly enjoying the singing and costumes. It is truly a pleasure to see the residents sing and clap along.

Dates are locked in for this year at the John Wesley Gardens and Symes Grove Nursing Homes with MLOC and Bayside Divas performers. We are also looking at another entertainer Judy James, we will keep you updated.

The annual bursary and Toc H plaque was presented to a trainee nurse from the University of Queensland. Here is her story: it makes very interesting reading.

“Jasmine, a Canadian midwifery student, decided to begin her studies in Australia after two years of volunteering with refugees in Greece and Lebanon. Jasmine has a unique familial relationship to the Second World War. Her maternal grandfather, who owned a fishing company in northern England, was called to assist in the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940. Continuing the family legacy of humanitarian support, Jasmine plans to use her midwifery degree to work in underserved communities throughout northern Queensland, and to take regular breaks to return to work with international refugees in the Mediterranean and around the world. In her spare time, Jasmine enjoys camping in Australia’s national parks, roller skating, and watching the ocean. She’s a passionate and inquisitive student, who sends her appreciation to the Toc H community in South East Queensland for their generous contribution to her education.”





The MLOC Singers



The General Members Branch has been asked to hold in trust and invest over \$10,000 from Cairns Branch. Each year a designated sum of money will go to a charity nominated by Leslie Lovelock and his Mother, Judith.

During 2020 it is hoped to build up membership of this very effective Toc H Branch. If any of the readers of this issue of The Link are interested, please contact me.

Cheers and take care,
Lorraine Burns

MORE NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN REGION

THE NEW CHAPLAIN FOR TOC H AUSTRALIA NORTHERN REGION is the Reverend Lindsay Howie. Much more about him will appear in the next Link.

COUNGEAU HOUSE: The Management Committee for 2020 is Ray Geise [Chairman], Lynne Hooper [Secretary], Lorelle Green [Treasurer], Lorraine Burns, Ellen Beechey, Tony Rigby. Chris Clark continues as the interim Caretaker and she is doing wonderful work in the House.

ARTICLE ON TOC H IN "DIGGER": A full page article on Toc H appeared in "Digger", the journal of The Friends of the Families of World War I and Ray Geise is now a member of this organisation.

THE HISTORY OF TOC H IN AUSTRALIA: The first five chapters of this book are now being formatted. And the writing of chapter six is now in progress. Chapter five is all about the great work of Toc H during World War II and it is a wonderful story.

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