

THE LINK

THE NATIONAL JOURNAL OF TOC H AUSTRALIA

Issue No. 10
October 2023



EKKA 2023 – Queensland Country Women's Association - Refreshment Cafe

left: Sue Baillie, QCWA State Southern Vice President
centre: Lorraine Burns, Toc H General Members Branch QLD
right: Barb McMillan, QCWA State International Officer

MESSAGE From OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR

In this edition of the Link, I want to focus on some of the history of Toc H – as revealed through the interesting life of one of our past members. Why? Because elsewhere in this edition, there is an article on the exciting future of Toc H in Australia, and that makes an important point: as we grow and develop Toc H, it is important that people are aware of the 100-year history of our Movement – this is a key element of who we are. The following story gives a good idea of the kind of people who provided wonderful service to Toc H in the first 50 years of our Movement.

In previous issues of the Link, I have discussed some of contributions my father-in-law Ron Stoner made to Toc H after becoming a member in the 1930s. In 1936 he took a contingent to London to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the founding of Toc H.

Just over three years later, war had broken out. Ron enlisted with the 2/30th Battalion in November 1940 and trained in Bathurst before setting sail from Sydney in July 1941. After further training in Singapore, he was posted to Malaya. On 8 December, the Japanese landed on the Malay peninsula and by 15 February 1942, after only 10 weeks, they had overrun the whole of the country and the Allied forces had surrendered in Singapore. Whilst the campaign was mostly a disaster for the Allies, there were some successes, including the ambush by 2/30th troops on the Japanese on 14th January 1941 at Gemencheh Bridge near Gemas. However, the Japanese soon regrouped, and the Australians were forced to rapidly retreat.

Amazingly, during the time of this retreat around 23 January, Ron somehow managed to write a letter to his friend Ted Geach, another Toc H member. I recently discovered this letter, and it makes for fascinating reading. Whilst carrying wounded, they had to force their way through thick jungle, then sleep on a steep hillside, with very little water or food. They encountered more

Japanese troops; here are some comments: 'Dive bombers raked our positions, mortars rained about us; every time I lifted my head to fire, a burst of bullets whined past my ears'. 'I prayed that my lads would get back safely, and they did'. 'haven't time to dig in, just have to trust God and keep our wits about us'. They experienced starving and thirst and struggled through mosquito-ridden swamps. But in all of this, he remained strong: 'The recuperative powers of men under these conditions are truly amazing. Never have I thought that man could stand so much'.

We have no idea how the letter managed to get from Ron to Ted, because 3 weeks later Ron was a POW in Changi and remained there and on the Burma Railway until the end of the war in August 1945. But we treasure it not only for its historical importance, but also because it gives an excellent insight into the character of the early members of Toc H. In Changi, Ron went on to form a Toc H group, and on the Burma Railway he helped alleviate the suffering of others and comfort the dying including Padre Ross Dean during a terrible time when he and many in the 2/30th died.

Stories like this are part of our Toc H heritage. They show the faith, courage, and determination of our founders. Our history and Christian ethos are two key elements that make us different from many other service groups. So, I encourage all members of Toc H in Australia to become aware of our history, and share it with others, particularly younger members. Respect and gratitude for those that served before us are something that will help build their character, and make our Movement into something special and unique, as we serve others.

Finally, as always, I thank each and every one of you for the work you do, for your commitment, and for being part of the wonderful movement that is Toc H.

Yours in Toc H,

Dr. Owen Nichols - National Director, Toc H Australia

EXCITING FUTURE FOR TOC H IN AUSTRALIA

As most of you are already aware, Toc H Australia is in line to receive a major legacy. This will have a significant impact on Toc H in Australia into the future. We will not receive the bulk of the bequest until sometime after January 2025, so we have almost 18 months to be 'donor ready'.

This is a big responsibility and Toc H Australia Council has been seeking legal and financial advice, and consulting with members to plan the way forward. As members would be aware, on 9th September we held a Special General Meeting which resulted in the passing of some important changes to our Constitution which had been recommended by our legal advisers. These addressed a number of matters, one of the most important being that Toc H Australia has full control of its membership.

We are now addressing matters relating to financial aspects and the most appropriate structure for Toc H Australia, given that the legacy will provide us with significant new opportunities but at the same time, new responsibilities. As with any charity or Public Benevolent Institution, good governance not only relates to successful outcomes, but also includes important legal responsibilities.

Currently, much of Toc H's community service in Australia is carried out by branches and members in Queensland and South Australia. Toc H Australia, as the custodian of our movement, has a range of responsibilities including matters relating to ethos, publication of the Link, and working with other Toc H entities to grow and develop Toc H in Australia. This will require a new Strategic Plan. As the organization responsible for the legacy, Toc H Australia Council sees its role as not just a body that manages and distributes funds, but one that works closely with Toc H throughout Australia to ensure that our movement and projects are targeted to where they will have the best effect,

and they involve volunteers providing service as the 'rent we pay for our room on earth'.

Eighty years ago, Toc H was a truly national organization in Australia. Growing and developing our Movement will require good, committed people - lots of them! People who are willing to contribute in thought, word and deed. They will need projects that inspire them and encourage others to join Toc H, or volunteer to help. Increasing the public's awareness of 'who is Toc H?' will be critical. What makes Toc H different from other charities or organisations? Our amazing history – almost 100 years in Australia – and our core values are key elements of this. So are our Christian foundations; we have never insisted on people being Christian to join our Movement, but we do require that they agree with the Christian basis of our ethos and work, as described in our Vision and the Four Points of the Compass. Together, all of this makes us unique.

We will need to decide what community service programs to focus on. Already, discussions have commenced with members, and I encourage all members to think about what they would like the new Toc H in Australia to do. Currently, we work with a range of groups - mainly the elderly and lonely, sick, disabled, and disadvantaged children, and we have done some work with veterans, youth, Aboriginal groups and refugees. But the need is enormous, and we could do so much more. Do you have a vision to help others? Are you willing to speak up and work to make things happen? This could be your opportunity; please give it some thought and discuss with other members of Toc H, including those of us on Australia Council.

We will need to work in with organisations who have similar goals and objectives, as well as Churches, veterans' organisations, and others. But it is essential that we maintain our identity, and people are aware that Toc H is the driver behind the work, based on the

vision established by our founder Rev. Tubby Clayton and many others over the years.

There used to be a saying in Toc H: “If Toc H did not exist, someone would have to invent it.” There is no doubt that Toc H still has a job to do. There are still significant needs out there. There is still loneliness, domestic violence, and many other needs. There is still a need for people to care for people. The Churches all have their welfare arms – they always have done. But Toc H traditionally sees a need and gets stuck into it. Together, we can make a difference. Are you willing to be part of this exciting future? Can we use a new legacy to fulfil Tubby’s vision and change lives for the better? Are you willing to accept this challenge?

David Hall
National Secretary of Toc H Australia

Owen Nichols
National Director



THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC

INTRODUCTION:

Toc H was invited to be one of the organisations on the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee several years ago, and the story of the Toc H Movement was published in one of its publications. Like the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee, Toc H had its origins in World War 1.

THE DAWN SERVICE:



One of the responsibilities of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee today is the Dawn Service which is one of the main events on ANZAC Day each year in Australia.

A Toc H Chaplain, the Reverend E. T. White played a significant role in the beginnings of this Service. At the time of his death, he was

Chaplain of St Mary's Anglican Girls School in Herberton in North Queensland. His grave is in a remote corner of the Herberton cemetery. On it is a simple plaque containing just two words, 'A priest'. Alongside his grave is another plaque which reads, "Adjacent to, and on the right-hand side of this marker, lies the grave of the Reverend Arthur White, a Church of England clergyman and Padre of the 44th Battalion, First Australian Imperial Force. On 25th April 1923, at Albany Western Australia, the Reverend White led a party of friends in what was the first ever observance of a dawn parade on ANZAC Day, thus establishing a tradition which has endured in Australia ever since." Also, in a park, in Forbes, New South Wales, is a plaque in memory of the Reverend White which records that he was the founder of the Dawn Service.

THE ANZAC STUDENT'S COMMERMORATION SERVICE:

ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee is also responsible for organising the annual Anzac Students' Commemoration Service which is held in the week preceding Anzac Day itself. It is very well supported by hundreds of school children from all over southeast Queensland.



This year a group of students from Our Lady's College, in Annerley, were all dressed in Army nurses' uniforms which added something very meaningful and special to the event.



THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC

This service does a lot to keep alive the spirit of ANZAC in the young people of southeast Queensland, and below is a well written explanation of this spirit by the late Colonel Burke. The late Colonel Arthur Burke OAM was involved with the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee for twenty-three years and was its Honorary President for many of those years. He was inspired to write the article below, the Spirit of ANZAC after reading a collection of essays written in 1961 by the students of St Margaret's Anglican Girls' School, Ascot, Brisbane, following their attendance at the school's annual ANZAC Day Service which included an address on ANZAC and its Significance, Emphasising the Spirit of ANZAC.

"The Spirit of ANZAC was suggested by official war historian C.E.W. Bean to have stood, and still stands, for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship, and endurance that will never own defeat.



The Spirit was epitomised in the deeds of Simpson with his donkey at Gallipoli - comradeship, courage, and sacrifice: others before self. It also encompasses the laughter, the pride and the love of life that is in every Australian. To really understand this Spirit, one must delve back into our country's past.

Australia is a huge land. In the early days, settlements were scarce and far apart yet pioneers built our society's foundations in these fragmented tiny communities. The sun and the open land, the independence, and the freedom of living under these conditions was a flame in the blood of our pioneers, a flame that burns whenever men are free, wherever there is a spirit which is willing to help those in need.

If there were rumours of trouble, immediately someone would saddle a horse and ride off to see if they could help. Though on a comparatively smaller scale, our New Zealand neighbours in this antipodean part of the British Empire also emerged with a very similar culture.

Conflicts were not unknown to this part of the world. The Eureka Stockade troubles of 1854 in Victoria, the shearers' strike of 1890 in Queensland and the subsequent eastern seaboard maritime strikes were but a few home-grown examples. New Zealand's Māori wars in the early 1860s saw volunteers from the separate colonies of Australia assisting their Kiwi mates to establish independence in another developing country.

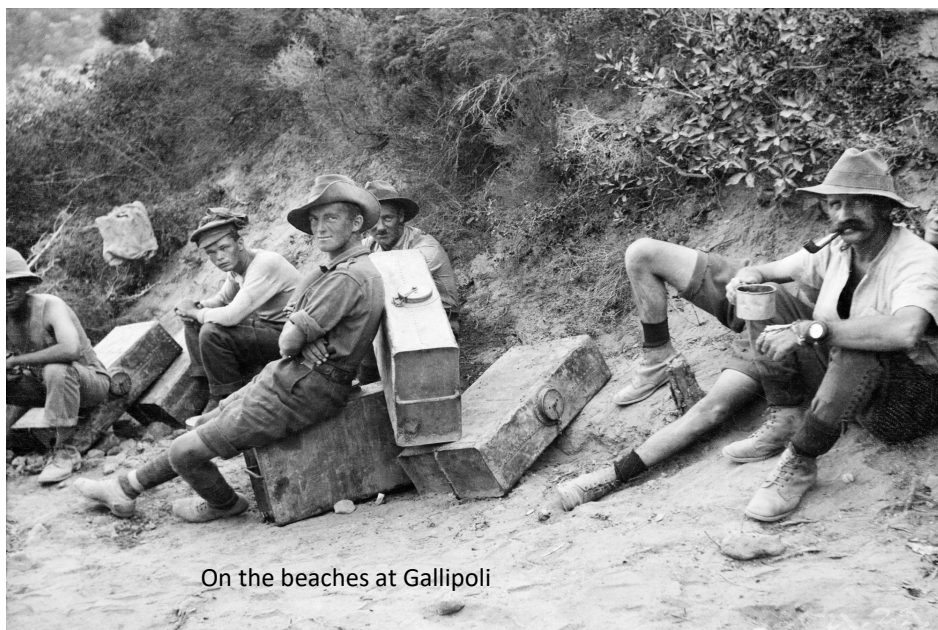
Again in 1885 the colonies displayed passionate outrage and a willingness to avenge the brutal death of Britain's General Gordon at Khartoum, despite only a New South Wales contingent being accepted for service. And when the Boer War erupted in South Africa, volunteer

units from the colonies competed for a place beside the Mother Country's warriors.

Thus, although the disparate colonies of our great land did not federate till 1901, Australians and New Zealanders had been united since the beginnings of their countries and this unity, this love of life had formed the basis of the Spirit of ANZAC.

"The Mother Country's in a spot of bother again," was a typical observation when the Great War began in 1914. "Might as well help her get this sorted out," was the accustomed response to someone in need. For a century the antipodean survivors had been helping overcome Nature's curses and supporting each other's causes. Now they were equally ready again to assist Britain, this time to overcome German militarism.

This was the Spirit which imbued the volunteers as they dashed off with seemingly gay abandon to the First World War and what was to become the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.



On the beaches at Gallipoli

Images from Virtual War Memorial and National Museum of Australia.

These bold, laughing soldiers were a new, unknown factor of a very old Empire. "They seemed to be of one race, for all of them had something the same bearing, and something the same look of humorous, swift decision" described Poet Laureate John Masefield. But if the British thought they "took a bit of getting used to", the enemy never got used to them. These "colonials" fought as they lived - bravely, openly, independently, and without fear. They proved that their young countries could produce men equal to any in the world, perhaps the greatest fighting force this world has known - the "ANZACs".

On 25 April 1915 a new world was born. A new side of man's character was revealed. The Spirit of ANZAC was kindled. It flared with a previously unknown, almost superhuman strength. There was a determination, a zest, a drive which swept up from the beaches on Gallipoli Peninsula as the ANZACs thrust forward with their torch of freedom.

As they fell, they threw those following the torch so their quest would maintain its momentum. That Torch of Freedom has continually been thrown from falling hands, has kindled in the catchers' souls a zeal and desire for both our individual liberty and our countries' liberty. That desire has been handed down with the memory and burns as brightly as the flame which first kindled it.

But the Spirit of ANZAC is not confined to the battlefield. It lives in the schools, on the sports fields, in fact all over these great countries of Australia and New Zealand. The sun invades our bodies and makes us 'mad'; mad for freedom - freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom to live and think as you will.

The Spirit of ANZAC is not something we can see but a powerful driving sensation that can only be felt. It is a feeling that burns in the heart of every Australian and New Zealand countryman. A warm, tender, fiery, even melancholy ideal that nurtures intense patriotism in the innermost soul of everybody.

Many foundation ANZACs died, but their glorious challenge to catch the thrown torch shouts loud and strong to all. Their goal was freedom for the land they loved.

The Spirit of ANZAC is invincible. It is the flame that burns forevermore in the heart of every true Australian and New Zealander.

Today we stand safe and free, clothed with all the privileges and rights of citizens in these great free countries. And all these things - liberty, security, opportunity, the privileges of citizenship - we owe to those men who fought, endured, suffered, and died for us and for their country. Their deeds and their sacrifices gave us the invincible, the intangible, the Spirit of ANZAC."

CONCLUSION:

Much of the above information was provided by the Office Manager of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee, Angela Burke, and we thank her for this. It is included in this edition of The Link, because one of the main projects of Toc H Queensland is The Annual Toc H Midnight Service on ANZAC Eve, which has happened since 1947. This Service is well attended by Toc H members, their friends, and members of the public. Whilst all those who served our country in wartime, are remembered during the Service, there is always a special mention made of those who served on the Western Front in Belgium and France in World War 1, and especially the 46,000 Australians who paid the supreme sacrifice on the Western Front, and just as the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee seeks to preserve the 'Spirit of ANZAC' in all of its work today, so the Toc H Movement seeks to preserve the ANZAC Spirit through its focus on Friendship or Mateship – the first point of the Toc H Compass.





St Margaret's Anglican Girls School students with Ray Geise outside the Shrine of Remembrance prior to the Midnight Service



Queensland University Music Society performers at the Midnight Service

**Ray Geise, OAM, KCSJ,
Director, Toc H Queensland**



Cadets from Enoggera Barracks with Ray Geise and Nick Dubravcic preparing to be the flag bearers and honour guard for the Midnight Service.



Ella & Emily Woods, past students of St Margaret's Anglican Girls School support the ANZAC march by providing transport with their jeep.

A POSSIBLE NEW PROJECT FOR NEW TOC H GROUPS AND BRANCHES

The Toc H way of doing things has often been to involve the Job master, and his or her task was to look around the community and endeavour to find jobs that could be tackled by Toc H members. If we look around many communities in Australia today, there are many people who often feel that they simply are not coping with life, and after giving some thought to this problem, possibly these Branches and Groups might develop a program which could help people with some of the problems they might be experiencing.

The following is a list of topics which could be helpful to many people in Australia today. Toc H may be able to help by organising workshops/ lectures or discussions on these topics, led by a someone who is qualified to speak about them:

1. Acquiring a good self-esteem
2. Developing confidence
3. Controlling anger/frustration
4. Leading a worthwhile life
5. Handling loneliness
6. Managing relationships
7. Managing leisure
8. Managing time
9. Writing a job application
10. Writing a C. V.
11. Preparing a budget
12. Applying for a loan
13. Handling essential services
14. Developing leadership skills

Thoughts and notes on each of these topics are being written and within the next year they will be published in a Book which could be used in starting new Toc H initiatives in regional towns throughout Queensland.

Ray Geise,

Director,

Toc H Queensland

VALE TOC H MEMBERS

BERYL EDITH NEWMAN

~ Nee Sharp

20/04/1924 ~ 11/03/2023

JOAN WINIFRED MORRIS ROGERS

~ nee French

12/09/1923 ~ 15/03/2022

For over 80 years Beryl and Joan were dear friends, but more like the sister they never had. Their parents knew each other and so too their Grandparents who resided in the Millmerran-Kooroongarra area on the Darling Downs in Queensland.

Both were raised on dairy farms, Beryl and Joan became friends around 14 years of age



because of their family connection and love of horses. Both their Fathers went off to WW1 and were fortunate to return home. Of the 3 Sharp brothers, only 2 returned. David Lindsay Sharp died of injuries and is buried in France. Beryl's Father Harold said, "Everyone will forget about Lindsay," as he

was known, but to this day he is still remembered, loved, and respected for his courage and service to country with family visiting his grave not so long ago.

Soon after the war ended Joan's Father was killed in a local Gymkhana accident involving horses, Joan & her two brothers were never told of the accident or why their father never came home until later in their lives. This affected Joan and she could never get enough information about her Father to satisfy her curiosity. Her Mother tried to maintain the family farm with the help of a brother, but she soon decided to move to Brisbane to be closer to her Mother and aunts for support. Joan completed her schooling in Brisbane then with the help of Legacy she was offered a position as receptionist at a funeral parlour in the city. One of the requirements of the job was to be a Justice of The Peace and Joan retained that position for the remainder of her life. She was very proud of that.

When Beryl's Father went off to war again in WW11, her elder brother Bert enlisted also and said to Beryl, "Here's my horse, here's my dog, here's my hat, go to it!! Beryl's job was to help her mother and younger brother David William (Bill) and to take the dairy cattle to the next-door neighbour's farm for water as there was no dam on the Sharp farm at the time. Beryl did this twice a day every day, taking the poddy calves separately after the main herd. Beryl knitted socks for the Comfort Fund war effort on the back of the horse to help pass the time. Considering Beryl had a dislocated hip all her life to be able to get on a horse and ride it was an achievement. She said her horse seemed to sense when she was sad or tired and would nuzzle into her when she got off to open gates or at the end of a hard day's work.

Joan used to visit the Sharp family farm "Linsalea" Lavelle via Millmerran whenever she could on weekends and holidays. She kept her horse there so she and Beryl could ride to visit neighbours and climb Mt Basalt and Mt Domville on horseback for outings and fun times together. Joan was considered one of the family by then.

Herbert Newman and Harold Sharp were Training Officers at Inglewood in WW11 and became mates and Harold invited the Newman family to visit "Linsalea", and when Allan saw Beryl for the first time, he said, "I am going to marry that girl!". Joan was bridesmaid for Beryl when she married Private Allan John Newman, son of Herbert and Olive Newman from Rathdowney on a showery Wednesday 5th December 1945 at Millmerran. They moved to the family dairy farm there where their son John was born at Beaudesert Hospital in 1946. Herbert was killed in a shipping container accident at Hamilton Wharves in May 1946. The farm later sold so Allan and Beryl moved back to the Millmerran district to work on farms there. Allan was always a willing worker and Beryl always his teammate. Daughters Jean and Jill were born in Toowoomba to complete the family, a still born baby Robert was buried in Drayton Toowoomba cemetery in 1951.

Soon after Joan married Kingsley Palmer Rogers and they too moved back to the Millmerran district to a dairy farm with King's brother Mel and his wife Gladys. That meant that Beryl and Joan

were back together again in Millmerran where they both became involved with church groups, school Parents and Citizens Association, and family reunions.

Allan and Beryl loved holidaying at Bribie Island, first at Bongaree in a tent, then a caravan along with Allan's 2 sisters Dot and Ollie and their husbands. All loved fishing and crabbing together there, Allan had a little dingy boat called *Bubbles*. Later Allan and Beryl bought a block of waterfront land at Ningi and lived in the caravan until the house was built. Allan got a job as a grader driver with the Caboolture Council. Joan and King were often visitors for short term holidays, and visits along with everyone else from the family. Allan was a workaholic, dug a well in the back yard, saying if he stopped work every time someone visited, he would get nothing done, but he did enjoy their company as did Beryl, a great cook of simple meals, biscuits, slices and cakes.

When Allan's health deteriorated, they sold at Ningi and moved to a home in South Street, Toowoomba to be closer to a hospital. Soon after King and Joan moved to Westhaven Retirement Village in Toowoomba too and Beryl and Joan were back together again getting involved in War Widows, Toowoomba Rose Garden and TOC H among the many charities they supported over the years with their craft ideas. They loved crocheting rugs for raffles for organizations and hundreds of dollars were raised every time with their generous donations. Allan passed away aged 62 in 1984 and Beryl later moved into a unit at Westhaven where Beryl and Joan would go shopping and attend meetings together. As time wore on Joan's eyesight deteriorated so her crocheting days were coming to an end. She still maintained her interest in her Justice of the Peace work, family and helping neighbours at Westhaven as Beryl did also. Beryl received several Certificates of Appreciation for her contributions to charity over the years. She was proud of but neither she nor Joan ever boasted about their charity work preferring to stay in the background as helpers.

In 2016 Beryl was first to enter Westhaven's Nursing Home aged 92 years where she settled in quite well. Her brother Bert soon

followed a few weeks later. Beryl and Bert were a bit of novelty being brother and sister and both in their 90's. Beryl's other brothers Bill, Stuart and John and their wives visited them both often and Joan's husband Kingsley was next to enter Westhaven's Hostel. Joan soon followed as she was unable to care for herself because of her poor eyesight. Sadly, King had a fall and passed away a couple of weeks later and Joan was later transferred to the Nursing Home in Room twenty-one, Beryl being in Room sixteen. Before Covid intervened they both enjoyed sitting together and chatting about old times, attending Hymn singing and concerts together and holding hands. Carers would take Joan to visit Beryl in a little lounge room nearby so they could be together, and family visit them both there too, Carers impressed with their long-standing friendship with both of them well into their 90's.

Sadly, Joan passed away first. She still had all her faculties, so she never forgot Beryl, but frontal lobe shrinkage robbed Beryl of her memory, so she had only a faint memory of Joan after she passed away. Beryl surprised us all by living almost another 12 months. Had shingles not attacked her frail little body she may well have lived to be 100. She passed away just shy of her 99th birthday.

Joan's wish was to be buried with her parents and two brothers in a family plot in Drayton Cemetery, Toowoomba. Beryl is buried with Allan and their baby son Robert also in Drayton Cemetery, not too far from each other and almost in a straight line, so the two dear friends are back together again.

So, Rest in Peace you beautiful ladies, your life's work done, and your race well run. What an example you have set for others to follow with your dedication to each other as friends, your unsung generosity for helping family and others less fortunate and for being just so caring and giving all your long lives.

We are proud of you both, you are missed, and you both will always be loved by so many.

Written by Beryl's daughter Jean Lyttle.

IN WAR AND PEACE -

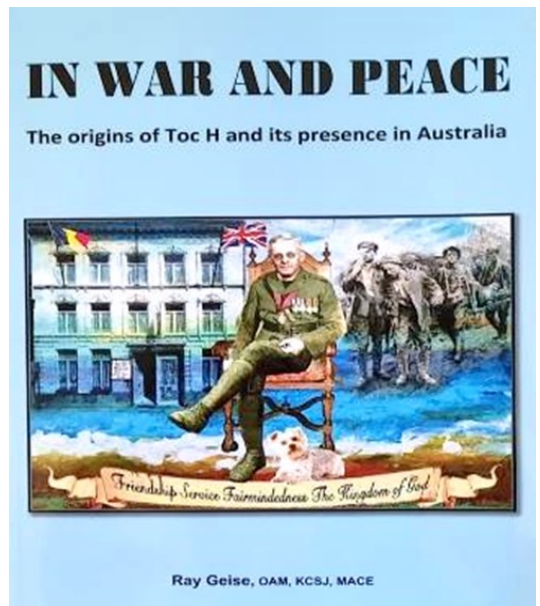
This is the title of a new book on the Story of the Origins of the Toc H movement and its presence in Australia since 1925. There are several things about this story which should be of interest to many people:

* There are many descriptions of projects which have been undertaken by Toc H members, such as the Ekka Outing, the Junior Farmer's Movement, the Blood Transfusion Service, Youth Leadership Courses, Youth Forums, The Bush

Children's Health Scheme, Camping programs for children with disabilities, as well as smaller projects like visiting people in aged care homes, cutting firewood for elderly people, arranging concerts in old people's homes, or just simply taking the time to be available to chat with someone who is lonely. Throughout the book are many profiles of people from all walks of life who have made significant contributions, not only to the Toc H Movement, but also to their communities. These make interesting reading.

There are many photos throughout the book which support what has been written. They help us to understand that Toc H is about 'doing something - putting words into action.

Copies of the book may be purchased by emailing tochaustralia@gmail.com and placing an order. An invoice will be issued with bank details for a direct deposit. Cost is \$40 plus \$10 postage and handling. Local pickup is available from Toc H Bribie Island or Ray Geise in Brisbane or limited supply from David Hall in Adelaide.



Front cover of the "In War and Peace" book by Ray Geise

BRISBANE BRANCH – EKKA OUTING 2023



EKKA 1927



Another big day at the Ekka this year. Toc H can celebrate too as we have been supporting families since 1927.

Walking down sideshow alley I'm sure some of the rides and stalls probably have not changed a lot in that time. What's also timeless are the smiles on the faces of the children we supported. We had 180 on the day and Brisbane branch and the team of volunteers served up 150 cupcakes, 500 drinks, 190 burgers, 200 bags of chips and 160 strawberry ice cream sundaes. If you think that's a record, we estimate over 1,000 rides were provided.

So special thanks to the Royal National Association, the sideshow alley ride owners, the Queensland Police Service, the cab companies, and the Queensland Country Women's Association in helping make it a big success. Let's not forget to mention all the Toc H volunteers from the branches, the St Margaret's Anglican Girls School and the many friends of Toc H.

By Tony Rigby



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL MEMBERS BRANCH - QUEENSLAND

Let us introduce you to the 2022 Bursary recipients.

The TOC H Memorial Prize is awarded to a student who embodies the values of its founder Reverend Tubby Clayton – to love widely, build bravely, think fairly and witness humbly. The recipient of this award has made a positive difference to the College community by being an advocate for others. She has been instrumental in driving the Big Sister program to mentor and facilitate relationships amongst our Middle Years girls. She is respected by her peers and is a fantastic role model to younger students.



Stephanie Wright
Fraser Coast Anglican College

Imogen Dwyer

University of Queensland student:



Summary from Imogen telling us a little about herself.

I was born in the regional town of Lismore in NSW and lived in the area for 18 years until I moved to Brisbane in 2021 to undertake a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of QLD. I am currently employed at the Queensland Children's Hospital as an Assistant in Nursing and hope to secure a graduate nursing program in Paediatrics upon completion of my degree in 2023. For the last 2 years, I have lived at Duchesne College within the University of QLD where I have had numerous opportunities to continue to provide service

to others in the community. This ranged from packing ZONTA birthing kits to cleaning up after the floods in Brisbane, which was particularly important for me as I was unable to return home to help my Lismore community, which was severely impacted by the 2022 floods.

One of my proudest achievements this year was being one of the leaders for the Duchesne College community in the Do it in a Dress initiative, where we were able to raise \$13,894 to provide an education to girls in Uganda and Sierra Leone. I hope in the future to continue to be able to undertake more service activities and combine this with my passion for paediatric nursing.

ADOPT A NURSING HOME – AGED CARE

No concert this year for Symes Grove/St Martin's Residential Aged Care, however, the General Branch and St Martin's have planned a special day for the residents in October. They will be enjoying a visit from Alpaca's from a local Alpaca Farm, followed by a BBQ lunch out in the gardens along with Staff and Carers. We'll include photos in our next Link.

The General Branch has again been able to donate Christmas puddings to both The John Wesley and Symes Grove/St Martin's Residential Aged Care this Christmas.



We had a very successful and enjoyable concert at The John Wesley Gardens Aged Care Community.

The feedback from both Wendy the Personal Carer and Kristen the Leisure & Lifestyle Coordinator *“the residents had been non-stop talking about it and looking forward to the Christmas concert in December”.*



Residents from John Wesley Gardens Aged Care enjoying the concert with the MLOC performers who had dressed for St Patrick's Days.



Residents and the Performers couldn't resist having a cuddle from one of the Carer's puppy..



EKKA 2023 – Queensland Country Women's Association

Another wonderful week spent with the fantastic and enthusiast team from the QCWA Refreshments Cafe. They generously raise funds for the QCWA Public Rural Crisis Fund.

What a privilege it was to again work alongside these dedicated men and women who provide the community with the best scones with jam and cream, hamburgers, sandwiches, and many other treats.



left: Sue Baillie, Queensland Country Women's Association State Southern Vice President

centre: Lorraine Burns, Toc H General Members Branch

right: Barb McMillan, Queensland Country Women's Association - State International Officer

The World Chain of Light – 2023

The World Chain of Light for 2023 will start at Coungeau House on Bribie Island Queensland. The Order of Service has been prepared by the Reverend Steven Schwarzrock and will be sent to all Toc H Branches around the world by the end of October 2023.



Toc H Bribie Island Branch

The members of Bribie Branch continue to work to support the work of Coungeau House. Their fundraising efforts are not only a lot of fun but assist with ensuring funds are available to assist the Coungeau House Management Committee projects, if required. These functions have also been invaluable in helping to make the community more aware of Toc H and Coungeau House.

The Soup and Hoy Night, co-ordinated by member Lorelle Green, invites guests to enjoy a variety of more than a dozen soups, all prepared by the members, before taking on a light-hearted game of hoy.



The Retro Revival evening motivates guests to sing along and dance to music of the 60's and 70's.



Some of our members have also become supporters of a local charity called "Buddy Bags". The founder Kerri Raedel was guest speaker at a branch meeting and explained that the role of the charity is to provide children in need and displaced children with a supply of clothes, toiletries, toys, books etc. These children are referred to "Buddy Bags" from Family Services, Schools, Police and Child Protection services.

For 4 years, Fr Steven Schwarzrock from St Peter's Anglican Church on Bribie has been Chaplin for Bribie Branch. We are thankful for his contribution and wish him well at his new appointment in Brisbane.

COUNGEAU HOUSE



This wonderful old house is one of the first homes built on Bribie Island. For the past 50 years while the population of the Island increased dramatically, few knew of Coungeau House and the role it has played in the Toc H movement in Queensland.

Increased hall usage by community organisations has certainly assisted in greater public awareness and resulted in some very enthusiastic supporters.

Toc H continues to work with local organisations to provide emergency short-term accommodation for those in need, and with Rotary to host a school camp for children from Proston.

Thanks to the work of Lorelle Green and a grant from the Qld Government, the security for the entire complex has been upgraded. In addition, all bunk beds were replaced with a safer, stronger model and with waterproof mattresses thanks to a very generous donation.

The challenge now is to promote Coungeau House so that the many organisations that support those in need or those with a disability are aware of the facilities that are available.

COUNGEAU HOUSE

Thanks to an incredibly generous donation from the Bribie Masonic Lodge a new 5mx5m shed has been constructed on the grounds of Coungeau House to replace the rusty carport that existed. The new structure is primarily for storage and will house the Toc H Australia archives as well as current Branch and Coungeau House Management Committee files and function requisites.



Ray Geise with Masonic Lodge members Ron Leth and Ray Sweatman.



Ray Geise (Chairman Coungeau House Management Committee) Paul Raybould (Caretaker), Ron Leth, Ray Sweatman (Bribie Masonic Lodge) Robert and Lynn Clacher, Sandra Raybould (Caretaker) Ellen Beechey, Lorraine Burns (Coungeau House Management Committee members)

The donation of a trailer from the local Police will be an additional resource for the use of the caretaker and other voluntary workers. Yet another indication that the work of Toc H at Coungeau House is being recognized and supported.

THE COUNGEAU HOUSE FILMING EVENT

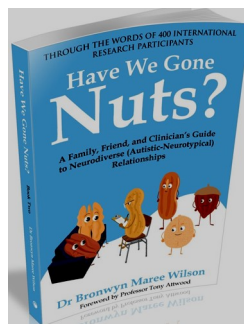
Over many years, the Toc H Coungeau House on Bribie Island has proven to be the ideal venue for Autism Research and Education (ARaE) in association with Queensland Asperger Partners Support (QAPS) group to hold many of their combined events. Since we subsidise all our events ourselves, and those who participate donate their time, the low-cost venue suits our purposes well.



The latest project that QAPS and ARaE are working on together is filmed interviews. These interviews are intended to improve knowledge and understanding of autism in adults and to help the countless people worldwide who are struggling in neurodiverse relationships (i.e., relationships where one or both people are on the autism spectrum).

In July this year we were able to hold our second filming event at Coungeau House. Since the House provides a place to stay for those who are traveling as well as a sizeable lounge room and large verandah, it was the perfect location for our filmed interviews. During our time at the Coungeau House, we were able to hold group interviews, couples interviews and individual interviews, which were all filmed in the many different settings this lovely old historic home provides.

We are planning to make our filming event a yearly occurrence and enjoy the lovely peaceful house and grounds many, many more times.



Dr Bronwyn Wilson PhD.,M.Spec.Ed.,B.Ed



“100 CLUB”

As Toc H Queensland is a registered charity with the single mission of providing community services through a variety of projects. Toc H Coungeau House project aims to provide low cost accommodation for those experiencing difficulties or are in some way disadvantaged.

AN INVITATION

To assist in our goal of providing low cost accommodation, we have established the “100 Club”.

This invitation is extended to families, individuals, organisations and businesses.

Toc H members and friends are encouraged to support this worthwhile initiative.

Your taxable deductible donation of \$100 would ensure that this goal could be achieved and can be used to sponsor use of the facility by those who, because of their circumstances, would benefit from this service.

Those who might be interested in joining the “100 Club” should contact Chris Clark by emailing coungeauhouse@gmail.com phone 0408 157 788 or

By direct deposit

Name: Coungeau House Management Committee

Bank: CBA

BSB: 064 164

Account: 0090 3394

Reference: (your name)



Issue No: 11 April 2024

Articles and photos for this edition should be sent to Ray Geise

no later than 30th March 2024

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Produced by Ray Geise

Printed by: Victory Press – Caboolture