

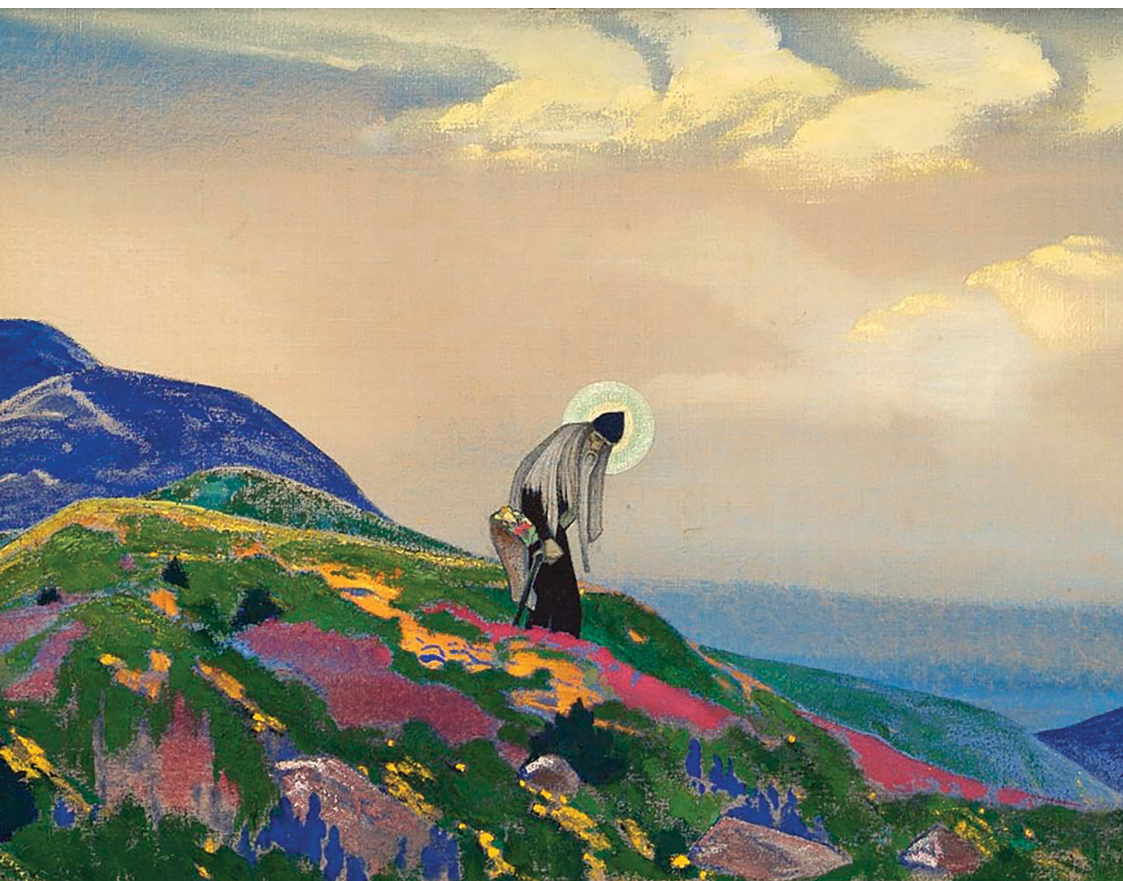
# Theosophy

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**INSIDE** From the National President  
Devachan – Of Love and Mind  
The National President's Annual Report  
Annual Membership Analysis

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**The Theosophical Society** welcomes students or seekers from all walks of life, belonging to any religion or to none and who are in sympathy with its Objects. It was formed to assist in showing to people that Theosophy exists, and 'to ascend towards it by studying and assimilating its eternal verities'. Wisdom is known by a mind that is completely open. Therefore freedom of thought and open enquiry are given special emphasis in the Society. **Theosophy** essentially refers to 'Divine Wisdom', Sacred Knowledge, which is a transcendent state of consciousness. In a secondary sense, Theosophy is an ancient yet distinct stream of enquiry, exploring and interpreting the truths of existence in terms suited to particular ages, e.g. in the teachings of ancient India, ancient China, Platonism, Neoplatonism, and, since 1875, through the contribution of the TS. At the core of Theosophy is the principle of indivisible Unity underlying the diversity of forms.

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### Mission Statement of the Theosophical Society

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

## From the National President

Stephen McDonald



In this edition of Theosophy in Australia (T in A) I'm pleased to include the full programme of activities at the Australian Convention in Adelaide in January 2023. It will be an opportunity for old and new friends to meet up and enjoy a week of talks, workshops and meetings on a theme highlighting our third object. We are fortunate to have Professor Emeritus Richard Silberstein from Melbourne giving two presentations, including the Public Talk on 26 January. Adelaide is a place where a number of scientists who are Australian Theosophists happen to live and some of them have agreed to give talks at the Convention. There are still places available if you wish to register to attend the Convention, either as a residential or non-residential delegate. You can contact the Convention Secretary, Jennifer Hissey, at:

*catalogue@theosophicalsociety.org.au*  
2023 is also shaping up to be a year of renewal with our first international lecture tour in over two years. Juliana Cesano from the United States will

be starting her tour by delivering a retreat for the School of Theosophy in Springbrook in late April and continuing to visit the major centres around Australia in May. Once again, you can find details about the School of Theosophy in the National Calendar of Events. More details will be provided in an e-Bulletin in December with a registration form.

This issue of T in A is focussed on the obligatory reports and business of the Australian Section and there is only one article. Simon O'Rourke, our National Education Coordinator, has written an interesting and erudite piece, which provides practical advice on living from a theosophical perspective as well as reflecting on the values of Greek philosophy.

As this is the final edition of T in A for 2022, I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all the best for the coming Christmas Season and New Year.

## Devachan – Of Love and Mind

Simon O'Rourke

“Till each completes his heavean-appointed round  
at Justice, Hope, and Care’s concluding bound,  
The terms absolved, prescribed by ancient law  
of power immense, and just without a flaw;  
For Fate [Moirā] alone with vision unconfined,  
surveys the conduct of the mortal kind.  
Fate is Zeus’ perfect and eternal eye,  
for Zeus and Fate [Moirā] our every deed descry.”

*From Hymn 58 of The Hymns of Orpheus, trans. by Thomas Taylor*



Hermaic Stele of Zeus, Otricoli type. Roman period. Corinth, Archaeological Museum.  
Photo by George E. Koronaios, Wikimedia Commons

We often read of the duality of mind and feelings, intellect and love, as if they were completely separate from each other. Yet the Theosophical literature indicates a much closer relationship between love and mind.

In every life, we are taught, only a small part is played out on the physical plane. An average life may pass from 700 years to 1500 years between physical incarnations, some more and some less and all dependant on the karmic causes set in motion during physical life. We can see that our physical life represents only about 10% of a day of the true life of Ātmā-Buddhi-Manas (the Higher Self—Spiritual Soul—Causal Body) having put a small part of itself into the lower mental, astral and physical planes. Plato writes of those whose journey lasted a thousand years from incarnation to incarnation, passing each other in their rounds, “some ascending out of the earth dusty and worn with travel, some descending out of heaven clean and bright” (Book X of *The Republic* trans. Benjamin Jowett). Heaven simply means sky, and the sky symbolises the aery realm of many spiritual traditions under many names, though in Theosophy the element of air is associated with the Mental Plane.

This Heaven, when not limited by dogma, is Devachan or Devaloka, meaning the “dwelling of the Gods”, or Svarga (Sk. “abode of light”). It

is Sukhavati, “highest happiness”, representing nine regions of bliss and delight in which one may find teachings of the Divine Wisdom suitable to one’s development (see the *Sukhāvativyūha Sūtras*).

Having withdrawn from the physical body after its death, and then the astral body after its karmic sojourn on the Astral Plane, the personal soul resides in the last stage in the mental body on the lower Mental Plane, before withdrawing into its source completely, the impersonal soul or Immortal Ego, the Causal Vehicle (Sk. Karana Sarira) which resides on one of the three higher and formless subplanes of the Mental Plane. For most of us it would be the third. This represents two periods in the Devachanic state, the lower while still a part of the mental body and the higher in the Causal Body or Higher Manas, as the lower mind and higher mind are one. Though in the Theosophical literature the word at times appears to reference both conditions and at other times, such as contained in the following quote, the word appears to refer primarily to the lower state of the mental body on the lower four subplanes.

The teacher, in Letter 68 of *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, in which one may find the full exact quote, explains: “Of course it is a *state*, one, so to say, of *intense selfishness*,

during which an *Ego* reaps the reward of his or her *unselfishness* on earth. It is completely engrossed in the bliss of all its personal earthly affections, preferences and thoughts, and gathers in the fruit of its meritorious actions. No pain, no grief nor even the shadow of a sorrow comes to darken the bright horizon of his unalloyed happiness: for, *it is a state of perpetual 'Maya.'*... Since the conscious perception of one's personality on earth is but an evanescent dream, that sense will be equally that of a dream in the Devachan — only a hundred-fold intensified. So much so, indeed, that the happy *Ego* is unable to see through the veil the evils, sorrows and woes to which those it loved on earth may be subjected. It lives in that sweet dream with its loved ones—whether gone before, or yet remaining on earth; it has them near itself, as happy, as blissful and as innocent as the disembodied dreamer himself; and yet, apart from rare visions, the denizens of our gross planet feel it not.”

We may see that without a physical body, its likes and dislikes, that without the emotional or astral body, with its desires and selfish feelings, all that remains belongs to the mind, and the higher feelings and will. Our individual ethical and moral responsibility flows from that aspect within ourselves that is *Buddhi-Manas* or wisdom mind. In this

cycle of our planet's existence, each great cycle of the seven corresponds to the development of a human principle. In the present fourth cycle, the Fourth Round, we are seeing the development of *Buddhi* (Wisdom) and the growth of moral and ethical responsibility.



Ganesha and His Wives, Siddhi and Buddhi –  
Detroit Institute of Arts – Wikimedia Commons

H. P. Blavatsky, in *The Key To Theosophy*, states: “A child does not acquire its sixth [*Buddhi*] principle—or become a morally responsible being capable of generating Karma—until seven years old.” From moral responsibility comes the reflection in the physical world of love and its counterpart—duty, truth, *dharma* or responsibility. Similarly, there is a correspondence with the growth of the

soul and the subplanes of the Mental Plane, each indicating a progression and expansion of both love and responsibility. I am summarising the following from two Theosophical books, Annie Besant's *The Ancient Wisdom* and C. W. Leadbeater's *The Mental Plane*, and more information may be found there.

I remember reading many years ago that it was impossible to help a person devoid of compassion and love unless they had a relationship with another being, whether human or even a single pet. As the Mental Plane is one stage higher or subtler than the plane of desire, the Astral Plane, the Mental Plane is selfless in character, being beyond the expression of personal desires. Those who have selflessly loved and thought of another, though in a small way, have opened the first door into the Devachanic state in that life.

The lowest subplane, the seventh counting from the subtlest, allows a Devachanic existence for those who have developed a relationship in feelings and thoughts with loved ones in closest physical proximity, close family and friends, and the first small buds of brotherhood inclusive of all begin to germinate. In the *Bhagavad Gita*, this touches on the concept in the eighteenth chapter of the first varna, colour or quality, symbolic of the young inexperienced soul.

The sixth subplane is said to be the abode for the Devachanic existence of one whose heart has opened devotionally to the basic ideals and inspiration of the greater spiritual teachers, and the divine representations, leading to the first development of the virtues. It represents an appreciation of the value of spiritual teachings as guidelines for living an ethical life, though not necessarily fully understood, like the older child.

The fifth subplane, the third of the four subplanes counting upwards on which the mental body resides, represents the Devachanic state of those whose journey through many lifetimes has brought them to a greater understanding of relationships, of love and responsibility, with the capacity to mould the world around them for the good of all, to inspire others, to act rather than to react, and who may consciously shape their own destiny towards a genuine appreciation of the virtues. This touches, in the *Bhagavad Gita*, on the third varna or quality of the truly civilised soul, who has developed the power to put ideals into practice and who thinks of the welfare of many and not just a few.

The fourth subplane, the highest in the world of form (rūpa), before the abstract higher three subplanes, is the Devachanic state of those whose thoughts in life were not for



themselves, or for attaining material wealth, or even for the benefit of the extension of themselves in family and personal culture, but whose thoughts were turned most frequently for the benefit of all. This is the subplane of the great thinkers, writers, composers, artists, philosophers, scientists, healers, spiritual teachers, selfless servants and others whose love and duty remained constant, regardless of their outer material circumstances. Of course, there may be some exceptions whose powers to help in the world during that life may have been severely curtailed by karmic law. This state corresponds to the fourth varna or quality found in the Bhagavad Gita, the quality of spirituality that is the closest to the abstract quality of mind and the state that reflects the principle of Buddhi (Wisdom). It is the mediator who can bring spiritual ideals into practical action in any field. The Theosophical teachings point out that we do not progress from one subplane to the next. Rather, our motivations, the quality, power and extent of our love as causes in physical life will find the working out of those karmic effects on the appropriate subplane in Devachan. However, a Theosophical axiom is that the greater always includes the lesser and that the quality of our love for all life will enrich the quality of our love for friends and family, and even environment and country.



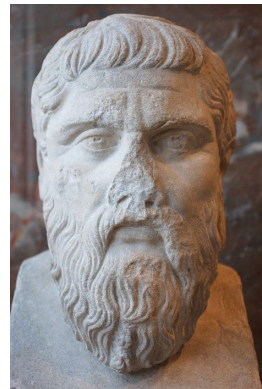
Khmer dance masks, photograph by Sopheaktra23, Wikimedia Commons

In Devachan on the lower Mental Plane, we are cocooned within our own blissful state, because consciousness during physical life has been limited to the physical plane. Annie Besant writes in *The Ancient Wisdom*: “The mental impressions, or mental pictures, we make of our friends will dominate us in Devachan. Round each soul throng those loved in life, and every image of the loved ones that live in the heart becomes a living companion of the soul in heaven. And they are unchanged. They will be to us there as they were here, and no otherwise. The outer semblance of our friend as it affected our senses, we form out of mind-stuff in Devachan by the creative

powers of the mind; what was here a mental picture is there – as in truth it was here, although we knew it not – an objective shape in living mind-stuff, abiding in our own mental atmosphere; only what is dull and dreamy here is forcibly living and vivid there.”

These forms, whether of loved ones or of the images we have conceived of the great spiritual teachers, are ensouled by the abstract Causal counterparts on the upper Mental Plane of those we have loved, to the extent of its capacity. Annie Besant continues: “But we can have no touch with those we knew on earth if the ties were only of the physical or astral body, or if they and we were discordant in the inner life; therefore, into our Devachan no enemy can enter, for sympathetic accord of minds and hearts can alone draw people together there. Separateness of heart and mind means separation in the heavenly life, for all that is lower than the heart and mind can find no means of expression there. With those who are far beyond us in evolution we come into contact just as far as we can respond to them; great ranges of their being will stretch beyond our ken, but all that we can touch is ours.” This opens the possibility of further teachings in relationship to the knowledge acquired in the physical life. There is some truth to the idea that we can achieve anything if we believe, though it may take several lifetimes.

Our aspirations and admirations draw our minds towards the working out of all of the possibilities, associations and ideas in Devachan on the Mental Plane that will become the talents, abilities and faculties in the next life. As Plato in Book X of *The Republic* wrote, those returning to incarnation had experienced “heavenly delights and visions of inconceivable beauty”. And from this they were able to choose their next lives. But this growth is slow. Plato wrote: “Most curious, he said, was the spectacle—sad and laughable and strange; for the choice of the souls was in most cases based on their experience of a previous life.” Many live their lives through the power of habit, like those belonging to the first two varnas mentioned earlier, than the self-determining powers or virtues of freedom, love and responsibility, which gradually belongs to the more experienced.



Plato, the Louvre. Wikimedia Commons

One may ask, what is the practical value of knowing about Devachan, a state that seems very far into the future? There are three things of value. Firstly, we may take this knowledge as a philosophy for living. We may lose all fear of being parted from the ones we have loved, the laws of nature bringing us closer together in the higher states.

Secondly, we may develop our studies with the knowledge that our desire for higher knowledge, whether early or late in life, will find a future expression. And we may begin while still in the Physical Plane of causes. To take a small analogy, if we imagine ourselves playing a musical instrument in the mind, playing a sport, writing a story or speaking to a group, all in the mind, and think out every moment, the actions and words, we often find we are able to reproduce the practice later in our physical activities. Some little practice is muscle memory, but most is the understanding that has grown in the mental body through the repetition of thoughts being made from mind-stuff. This small practice in everyday life will open more doors and possibilities in the Devachanic life.

Thirdly, we may avoid the things which diminish a richer Devachanic experience. Ancient Greek Philosophy distinguished between the rational part of our nature, and the irrational part. That which is rational is our

immortal soul, that which is irrational is the personality devoid of that higher intelligence. We can see this when we observe the progressive effects of alcohol on an individual. As Meditation improves memory and concentration, alcohol diminished them. Although some think the actions of thought resides purely in the physical brain, Theosophy teaches, taking *The Ancient Wisdom* as an instance, that each thought, whether stimulated by the senses or beginning in the mind, is reproduced in the other vehicles of consciousness, stimulating vibrations in the Buddhic (Wisdom) nature if the thought is high and noble enough, of a similar all-encompassing quality.

As the poisoning effects of alcohol diminishes the responsiveness of the brain, and particularly as the pituitary gland (related to growth) and pineal gland (related to sleep regularity) of the endocrine system are steadily inflamed, we witness the gradual withdrawal of the higher rational Self. We see the intelligence dimmed, the higher mind being slowly cut off, irresponsibility grows, rational inhibitions fade, and gradually the emotional nature dominates. The feelings are the feelings and desires of habit, such as despair, loneliness, sensuousness, fear, anger and jealousy. As the poison increases, in the name of pleasure and bliss, only the physical body remains

responsive, tending towards physical slumber and inertness, confused semi-aware thoughts, crossing the artificial river of forgetfulness. Blood flow into the glands mentioned is of course stimulated by the practice of meditation, hence another reason why meditation and alcohol do not mix for anyone seriously treading the spiritual path.

How better to prepare for the Devachanic state? Plato suggests the following, again from *The Republic*: “A person must take with themselves into the world below an adamantine faith in truth and right, that there too he or she may be undazzled by the desire of wealth or the other allurements of evil, lest, coming upon tyrannies and

similar villainies, they do irremediable wrongs to others and suffer yet worse themselves; but let them know how to choose the mean (the middle path) and avoid the extremes on either side, as far as possible, not only in this life but in all that which is to come. For this is the way of happiness.” Plato was a follower of Pythagoras, of whom it has been suggested had met the Buddha in India, and who spoke equally of the middle way. Our thoughts may be selfish or impersonal. Yet as we progress with our studies, observations and practices, it is important to remember that our highest and most abstract thoughts are imbued more strongly with love, unity, sympathy and empathy. The power of love opens the power of the mind.

## The National President's Annual Report

1 JULY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2022

### PREAMBLE

Presented in the pages that follow is my Annual Report to the members of the Australian Section. This is my second year as National President and the second half of 2021 was still severely affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. As 2022 unfolded there

was a new sense of optimism and a gradual revival of activities across the lodges, branches and groups that constitute this Section. The Australian membership, including the many volunteers involved in committees and subcommittees, have striven to keep

the mission of our Society alive and well despite the many challenges of the past two years. This report reviews a year of recovery and recharging of our organisation highlighting some new perspectives. On 30 June 2022, after over 10 years of dedicated service, our National Secretary, Dara Tatray retired. I am personally very grateful for the help she gave me during my first 18 months in office. From early 2022 her replacement, Gayle Thomas was appointed to the position and a period of transition ensued.

## NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

### National President

During the second half of 2021 the Covid restrictions continued to impact upon the work I was able to undertake in the Section. Once again, planning for the annual Convention of the Theosophical Society in Australia in January 2022 was stalled because of uncertainties about travel and face to face meetings. The national lecturer program was also on hold until the circumstances of travel and meetings at the TS centres became clearer.

From late June until mid-October 2021, New South Wales went through an extended period of lock down. This meant that opportunities for travel during the first six months of the reporting year were still hampered

by Covid uncertainties. 2022 saw a gradual easing of some restrictions on travel between the Australian states, however movement between and meetings at Theosophical centres remained difficult during the first half of the year. As the Australian National Convention was cancelled, the Convention Business Meeting had to be held online in January 2022.

In September 2021, I gave an online talk to the Northern Beaches Group. I was able to give two talks at Blavatsky Lodge, Sydney; one in February and a second one in May for the Centenary of that Lodge. I was also invited to bring greetings from the Australian Section at the Centenary Celebration of the Manor community in Sydney. Despite the trepidations of the previous two years, 2022 opened with a greater sense of optimism.

In April 2022, with the help of Simon O'Rourke (National Education Co-ordinator), I conducted the first School of Theosophy at the Springbrook Retreat Centre since 2019. We were blessed by the agreement of Linda Oliveira and Pedro Oliveira to present the classes, which contemplated selected verses from *Voice of the Silence*. Simon and I augmented the philosophical sessions in the morning with practical activities on speaking and committee work in the afternoons. The feedback from the participants

was positive and enthusiastic, which made the work of organising the event very satisfying.

After the event at Springbrook, I toured three centres in Queensland: Brisbane Lodge, Logan Certified Group and Sunshine Coast Lodge. I'm grateful for the warmth and hospitality extended to me at each location and the opportunity to meet many members for the first time in person. At the end of May 2022, I was able to visit Adelaide Lodge, give two talks and meet with their executive committee. I also had the opportunity to inspect the accommodation and facilities at St Mark's College at the University of Adelaide, which is the proposed location for our National Convention in January 2023. This will be the first Australian convention since 2020. Finally, in June 2022, I attended a meeting of the General Council, which was held at the International Theosophical Centre (ITC) at Naarden in The Netherlands.

Looking ahead, planning for the annual Australian Convention to be held at St Mark's College at the University of Adelaide in January 2023 is underway. Planning of a second national event at the Springbrook Education and Retreat Centre is in progress. There are also plans to reopen the Canyonleigh Centre in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales later in 2022. The Centre was closed during the pandemic and

will need some essential renovations prior to reopening for events and private hirings.

The following is a summary of my main additional duties within this Section during the reporting period: Preliminary work on a draft program for the National Convention to be held in Adelaide in 2023. Planning and preliminary organising for National Lecturer tours. Compiling, editing and production of four issues of *Theosophy in Australia (T in A)*, in consultation with the Editorial Committee. Input into an update of the Orientation Booklet for use by Lodge/Branch and Group committees. Member of the National Council. Member and Chair of the National Executive Committee. Director and Chair of The Australian Section Theosophical Trust. Membership of several working committees. Member of the General Council of the Theosophical Society. Ongoing liaison with TS centres around the Section, as well as dealing with a significant amount of correspondence.

### **National Council**

The National Council met in January via an online platform and in June 2022 in-person. As at 30 June 2022 the National Council comprised the three ex officio members (the National President, the National Secretary and the National Treasurer), along with six elected State Representatives, each of

whom may serve up to three two-year terms:

**Ruth Holt** – Tasmania

**John Davey** – Western Australia

**Barry Bowden** – Queensland

**Gaynor Fraser** – South Australia/  
Northern Territory (Chair)

**Edward Sinclair** – Victoria

**Gerard Brennan** – New South Wales/  
Australian Capital Territory

Special appreciation is extended to the State Representatives for their voluntary service to the Council which included, among other things, online and in-person meetings of the National Council, and correspondence in between meetings on matters of importance. Beside liaison with the members and committees of the Lodges/Branches and Certified Groups within their state, an important function of members of the National Council is to regularly review the National Policies Document and the National Rules.

The following appointments were made by the National Council for a 12-month period in January 2022:

- Chair of the National Council and Vice-President until January 2022 – Gaynor Fraser.
- National Executive Committee (see next item).

### **National Executive Committee**

The National Executive Committee deals with the ongoing administration

of the Section. It met several times during the year. As at 30 June it comprised the usual three ex officio members, the National President, National Secretary and National Treasurer, as well as the following members who were appointed by the National Council in January: Cassandra Au (Sydney), Berry Dunston (Hobart), Denise Frost (Devonport), and Edward Sinclair (Melbourne). These meetings were conducted at the headquarters in Surry Hills, Sydney except for some members who attended online.

The members of the National Executive Committee are also required to be Directors of The Australian Section Theosophical Trust, which is responsible for the Section's properties.

In February 2022 the National Executive Committee reappointed Stephen McDonald as the Editor of *Theosophy in Australia* and appointed the following working committees: Education & Training, Rules, Finance, and Electronic Media & Marketing.

### **Headquarters Staff and Volunteers**

The National Headquarters is staffed by a small, dedicated group of people who undertake a large range of tasks necessary to support the overall work of the Australian Section. There are also several volunteers who give their time working on committees of the Section and carrying out a number of

projects within the headquarters. The broad range of duties undertaken in the difficult circumstances imposed on the staff and volunteers by the pandemic is a testimony to their dedication to service of the Society in Australia. The main tasks performed by all concerned during the year are listed here:

**Dara Tatray and Gayle Thomas:** *National Secretary.* After over 10 years of dedicated service, Dara Tatray left the position on 30 June 2022. From early 2022 her replacement, Gayle Thomas was appointed in this role and a period of transition and training ensued. During the year in question, the National Secretary was responsible for reporting to the National Executive Committee and the National Council and arranging their meetings at the headquarters in Surry Hills, Sydney and online. Taking care of all routine business for these entities; writing and distributing their Minutes and Agendas; ensuring that their statutory requirements are met. Reporting to the ACNC. Assistance with *Theosophy in Australia*. Maintaining appropriate workers compensation cover for the National Headquarters, and maintaining appropriate Public Liability, Building/Contents, Association Liability and other cover for all Lodges/Branches in the Australian Section. Overseeing the work of the Section's

bookkeeper. Advising Lodges/Branches on their rules. Producing and distributing quarterly investment trust reports to seven investment partners with a beneficial interest in the Section's Maple-Brown Abbott portfolio. Providing content for the website and the Section's Facebook page. Continuing to liaise with HWL Ebsworth Lawyers regarding the formation of the new company structure for the TS in Australia. Administration of the Springbrook Theosophical Education and Retreat Centre, the Canyonleigh Centre and the BCT agreement.

**Simon O'Rourke:** *National Education Co-ordinator.* Research for presentations to several TS centres. Research for and maintenance of the Section's Facebook page. Communicating with National Members on educational resources. Responsible for the Campbell Theosophical Research Library and Archives and ordering suitable new titles for its collection. Providing assistance to Launceston Lodge, which has been hampered by a declining membership and lack of volunteers. Overseeing the organisation of the second-hand book collection. Member of the Education and Training, and Electronic Media and Marketing committees. Assistance to the National President. Ordering and sale of books and study courses.



Processing leaflet and brochure orders for lodges, branches and certified groups. Assisting with proofreading four issues of *Theosophy in Australia*. Helping to organise *T in A* mail-outs. Answering educational enquiries from TS members as well as from members of the public. In addition to his specific duties, Simon has also provided assistance with many IT matters, including the TS website.

**Jennifer Hissey:** *Librarian, Campbell Theosophical Research Library.* Cataloguing collections of TS libraries around the Section. Updating and maintaining the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). Providing material to external researchers from the Campbell Library. Accumulating resources for archival and website use. Convention Secretary. Assisting with *T in A* mail-outs as required.

**Gil Murdoch:** *Webmaster for the Australian Section's website.* Substantial work on adding and maintaining material on the website and web pages of lodges, branches and certified groups. Helping train and advise designated lodge members in adding events and programme material for their lodges. Maintaining AV, sound equipment and data projectors. Updating the Union Index of Theosophical Periodicals and maintaining its search facilities, including adding new index

items from important theosophical periodicals. Maintaining the index of the *Brahmavidya* journal and its search facility. Continuing work on a new index of *The Theosophist* including a dedicated search facility. A continuing major addition of article titles and authors has been made to the index of *The Canadian Theosophist*. Maintaining and developing *Links to Theosophical Texts Online*, a resource for those seeking to find theosophical writings online. Assisting in the Campbell Theosophical Research Library and Archives. Exploring the rendering of some theosophical writings into web format compatible with computers, tablets and smart phones. Assisting with *T in A* mail-outs as required.

**Richard Larkin:** *Membership Secretary - Preparing membership reports.* Maintaining the membership database. Banking. General office duties. Assistance to the National President, the National Secretary and the Education Coordinator. Editorial assistance with articles for publication. OPAC data entry. Cataloguing, downloading and editing material from other Libraries. Creating new book items on OPAC. Editing and uploading OPAC items to *Libraries Australia*. Assisting with *T in A* mail-outs. Assisting Gil Murdoch with data entry for the Union Index, currently recording “*The Canadian Theosophist*” onto the Union Index.

**Kay Schiefelbein:** *Caretaker, Springbrook Centre.*

**Tinh Van Vo-Nguyen:** *Volunteer – National Headquarters.*

**Gloria Yiangou:** *Volunteer – National Headquarters.*

**Beatrice Malka:** *Volunteer – National Treasurer. Member of the National Executive Committee. Director of The Australian Section Theosophical Trust. Chair of The Theosophical Foundation Pty Ltd.*

**Cassandra Au:** *Volunteer - member of the National Executive Committee. Director of The Australian Section Theosophical Trust.*

**Berenice Dunston:** *Volunteer-member of the National Executive Committee and Director of The Australian Section Theosophical Trust.*

**Denise Frost:** *Volunteer – member of the National Executive Committee. Director of The Australian Section Theosophical Trust.*

**Edward Sinclair:** *Volunteer – member of the National Executive Committee. Director of The Australian Section Theosophical Trust. State Representative Vic.*

**Barry Bowden:** *Volunteer – State Representative Qld. National Lecturer.*

**Susan Lee/John Davey** from June 2022: *Volunteer - State Representative WA.*

**Ruth Holt:** *Volunteer – State Representative Tas.*

**Gaynor Fraser:** *Volunteer – State Representative SA/NT. National Vice-President.*

**Gerard Brennan:** *Volunteer – State Representative NSW. President of the Indo-Pacific Federation.*

**Janice Scarabottolo, Dr Olga Gostin, Patricia Ossenberg and Ruth Holt:** *Volunteers – members of Editorial Committee.*

### **GENERAL COUNCIL (the international governing body)**

During the reporting period, the General Council of the Theosophical Society met online in December 2021 because of the pandemic. Apart from administrative matters, reports were given by the International President and by the International Treasurer, Nancy Secrest. Reports were also given about progress on negotiations of a lease of the Damodar Gardens part of the estate and about numerous projects being carried out around the world.

Stephen McDonald attended the General Council meeting held in June 2022 at the International Theosophical Centre (ITC) in Naarden, The Netherlands, which was followed by project planning meetings. Items discussed included: the signing of a lease of Damodar Gardens (a 14-acre part of the TS estate at Adyar) to an

educational trust, which will yield a substantial ongoing income to the Theosophical Society; and update on the proposal from Canada to host the World Congress in 2025; details about the next International Convention to be held in Adyar, India from 31 December 2022 until 4 January 2023. Proposals for the propagation of Theosophy internationally, especially through social media, were discussed.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Statistics**

As at 30 June 2022 the Section had 658 members, a loss of 42 members over the 12-month period concerned. The main losses and gains in numbers occurred in several larger TS centres. See also the annual membership analysis at the end of this report.

### **National Members**

As at 30 June, the Section lost 15 National Members. Our National Members receive periodic e-Bulletins by email, as well as the magazine.

### **Letters to New Members**

Newly joined members have online access to 22 Letters to New Members from the National President. It is planned to have a smaller number of letters communicating directly with new members soon.

### **Exit Surveys**

A few former members who had either resigned or been lapsed completed

and returned the optional exit surveys which were sent to them by the National Headquarters. Reasons cited were usually of a routine nature, but sometimes issues with a local TS centre were mentioned, in which case centres concerned were subsequently notified for any action as required.

### ***Theosophy in Australia***

Four issues of the national magazine were printed in September, November, March and June during the year under review, its contents continuing to reflect our diverse membership. The September issue was devoted to science related articles, which were well-received. My thanks go to the members of the Editorial Committee who volunteer their services by assisting me to review and appraise articles before they go to print.

## **CONVENTIONS**

### **2022 Convention**

Due to the ongoing problems with travel related to Covid-19, the 2022 Convention was cancelled. The mandatory Australian Convention Business Meeting (ACBM) was held online on Saturday 22 January 2022.

### **Looking Ahead**

The National Council decided to go ahead with organisation of an in-person Australian Convention to be held in Adelaide in January 2023, the first Convention since January 2020.

## EDUCATION

### **Education and Training Committee / Educational Resources**

The Education and Training Committee comprises the National President, the Education Coordinator and the National Secretary, and an additional member. The National Executive appointed Berry Dunston (who has a sound background in education at the tertiary level) as an additional member in 2021.

During the year the National Council approved the appointment of Simon O'Rourke as the new Education Coordinator for the Australian Section. Simon has been a member of the Theosophical Society for 30 years with a strong interest in Theosophy and the Secret Doctrine teachings. He was a former National Lecturer for the Theosophical Society in Australia and a former President and Treasurer of the Blavatsky Lodge in Sydney.

### **Campbell Theosophical Research Library and Archives**

A number of new books were acquired for the library. In total, 28 new titles were catalogued, including Edi Bilimoria's substantial four volume set, "Unfolding Consciousness."

Jennifer Hissey, our librarian, continued to research TS history in Australia and the influence of theosophists on world

thought and philosophical movements, such as the influence of the Loyalty League in the Liberal Catholic Church.

The Section's Archives also provides material for research on the Society's history, and biographical information on members who have made substantial contributions in various fields.

### **National Speakers' Schedule**

As well as the administrative assistance provided to TS centres, the National Headquarters also coordinates a National Speakers' Schedule. The schedule includes National Lecturers, the National President and the Education Coordinator, as well as International Lecturers. Unfortunately, during this reporting period, the ability for international and interstate travel has been restricted by the global pandemic.

In January 2022, the National Council appointed (or reappointed) the following members as National Lecturers for 2022: Helen Steven (Hobart) and Barry Bowden (Toowoomba). In October 2021, Helen Steven was able to visit Adelaide and give two talks. Barry Bowden attempted to visit Hobart Branch in November 2021, however a person on his flight tested positive for Covid forcing Barry into quarantine. He still managed to provide a presentation to Hobart Branch using the Zoom

platform. Advance plans are underway for some lecture tours during the second half of 2022 and for 2023.

### **International Lecturers**

Once again, due to Covid-19, there were no international lecture tours possible during the year in question. It is hoped that Juliana Cesano from the United States will be able to present the annual School of Theosophy at Springbrook in April 2023 followed by a tour of the Australian Section.

### **Book Depot, National Headquarters**

Book sales from our special selection at the National Headquarters continued during the year in question at cost recovery prices, mostly because of information on the website.

## **UNIVERSITIES**

### **University of Sydney**

The Theosophical Society in Australia continued to award the John Cooper Memorial prize to Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney, for work on the Perennial Philosophy in its Eastern and Western traditions, a prize which commenced in 2000. The Department of Studies in Religion submitted one undergraduate essay as potential candidates for the John Cooper Memorial Prize. The Education Committee recommended that the prize be awarded for that work. As I was travelling at the time of the prize-

giving ceremony, Simon O'Rourke attended in my place. Simon was able to give a short talk about the TS, which was well received by the audience.

### **University of Queensland**

Since 2014 the TS in Australia has made available a prize for research into the Perennial Philosophy in its Eastern and Western traditions to Studies in Religion at the University of Queensland, with parameters identical to the University of Sydney prize. At the end of the reporting period no submissions had been received. This was most likely because of the uncertainties created by the pandemic.

### **University of Western Australia**

The Theosophical Society Perennial Philosophy Prize is awarded to selected students of an undergraduate course on 'Philosophy East and West' at the University of Western Australia. In June 2022, one undergraduate essay was forwarded to the headquarters and it was deemed to be of a suitable standard for the prize to be awarded. It was decided to review the prize criteria at the time of the next renewal of the agreement with the University.

## **NATIONAL EVENTS**

### **Springbrook Centre**

In April, with the help of Simon O'Rourke (National Education Co-ordinator), I conducted the first School of Theosophy at the Springbrook

Retreat Centre since 2019. Fortunately, Linda Oliveira and Pedro Oliveira agreed to present classes on the Voice of the Silence. Simon and I augmented the philosophical sessions in the morning with practical activities on speaking and committee work in the afternoons. The feedback from the participants was positive and enthusiastic.

### **Canyonleigh Centre**

No national events could be held at the centre during the reporting year because of the Covid restrictions. Plans are afoot to recommence activities at this beautiful centre once some essential renovations have been completed.

## **PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION**

### **Facebook Page**

During the year in question, our Education Co-ordinator, Simon O'Rourke has been working on ways to revitalise our online presence, including through utilisation of Facebook.

Members are encouraged to look at our Facebook page. You do not need to be a member of Facebook in order to browse our many and varied posts. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/austheos>

### **e-Bulletin**

There have been a number of e-Bulletins released between June 2021 and June 2022. These have mainly been

focussed on promoting national and international activities, including the School of Theosophy at Springbrook, Queensland and the International Youth Gathering held at Naarden in the Netherlands. Any members who do not receive e-Bulletins, and who would like to do so, can contact Gil Murdoch at the National Headquarters: [web@theosophicalociety.org.au](mailto:web@theosophicalociety.org.au)

### **OPAC**

Electronic publicity for the holdings of TS libraries around the country continued during the year through the Section's Online Public Access Catalogue at: <https://austheos.softlinkhosting.com.au>

Resource lists of the most requested subjects are available from the search page under 'Other searches'. Jennifer Hissey welcomes suggestions for further lists and can be contacted at: [catalogue@theosophicalociety.org.au](mailto:catalogue@theosophicalociety.org.au)

This unique catalogue is an important contribution for researchers from Australia and from around the world.

### **Website**

The programmes of Lodges, Branches and Certified Groups were included on the site on a regular basis. The largest usage by country has come from Australia, the United States, India, China and the United Kingdom. The Union Index of Theosophical Periodicals, which is appreciated internationally,

had a large number of hits. As in previous years, other items popular on the website were Brahmayidya – the electronic index of Adyar Library and Research Centre Bulletin and the magazine Theosophy in Australia.

Gil Murdoch, our Webmaster, besides his ongoing work on the Section's website, has uploaded the regular issues of Theosophy in Australia and formatted and distributed the e-Bulletins. Gil has also produced regular updates of the Union Index.

## SUPPORT

### Annual Fund

Since the early 1990s members of the Australian Section have provided donations to help finance various new educational and promotional initiatives. This money is not for administrative purposes; it is used for special projects. My thanks go to all those who have donated to the Annual Fund, no matter how small the contribution.

### Lodges/Branches and Groups

An ongoing part of the work of the National Headquarters involves providing assistance in a variety of ways for Lodges/Branches and Certified Groups from around Australia. This involves help for the larger Lodges and Branches, and especially for smaller, less resourced centres.

The following items, most of which are dealt with elsewhere in this report, are

additional forms of support from the National Society for our TS centres: the provision of a shared platform on the website helping to enable the promotion of our centres, the material produced from the Education and Training Committee, the National Speakers' Schedule, International Lecturers, OPAC and Marketing. Also, regular advice provided by the National Secretary related to administrative matters.

## OUR INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

### Adyar

The global pandemic has impacted international travel and curtailed the ability for members to attend the usual activities in India, such as the annual International Convention and the School of the Wisdom at Adyar. In order to bridge the gap, a highly successful convention was held online again in December 2021, as well as online presentations for the School of the Wisdom. It is hoped that the next International Convention commencing in December 2022 will be held in-person at the Adyar campus in Chennai, India. Information about the convention and registration will be available from the following website: <https://tsconvention.com/>

### International Youth Gathering

This well-attended meeting of Theosophists under the age of forty was

held at the International Theosophical Centre (ITC) in the Netherlands during June 2022. As a result, plans are in progress to revive the World Federation of Young Theosophists.

### **Indo-Pacific Federation**

Since 2016 Gerard Brennan has been President of the Indo-Pacific Federation, of which our Section is a member, and is currently serving in his second term of office in this capacity. Due to the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic it has not been possible to travel around the Indo-Pacific region during the President's current term of office. This has hampered the work of the Federation at this time. It is proposed that the next Indo-Pacific Conference be held in Malaysia in November, 2022. However, because of the ongoing nature of the pandemic and its ramifications, it has been decided that the conference be conducted online. Link for more information: <https://www.theosophicalsocietymalaysia.com/post/ipfc15>

## **RULES**

### **Elections for State Representatives**

Elections for State Representatives were carried out in 2021. As there was only one candidate for each of the Electoral States, a yes/no vote was held and the following were elected or re-elected unopposed: Queensland (Barry Bowden); Tasmania (Ruth Holt); South

Australia/Northern Territory (Gaynor Fraser).

At the end of the current reporting period nominations were called for the 2022 election of State Representatives for New South Wales/ACT, Western Australia and Victoria. The role of our State Representatives is an important one, constituting two thirds of the membership of the National Council and representing every member in their Electoral State at the Council's six-monthly meetings.

### **Lodge/Branch Rules**

Routine amendments to the Rules of TS centres around the Section were reviewed by the Section's Rules Committee during the year, for a decision by the National Executive Committee.

### **Notices of Motion**

There was one notice of motion for the 2022 Australian Convention Business Meeting: the motion for incorporation and adoption of the new company constitution. The National Secretary reported that all the Lodges/Branches voting at a convention business meeting voted for the motion. The motion to incorporate and adopt the company constitution was therefore carried.

## **LODGES/BRANCHES AND CERTIFIED GROUPS**

The work of the TS in Australia is largely undertaken by dedicated volunteers; dedicated not only to the daily tasks of running the organisation,



but to the spirit and inner purpose of our Society. It is mostly due to those volunteers in the Lodges, Branches and Groups that the wheels keep turning.

The following is a summary of each Annual Report received from our Lodges/Branches and Certified Groups, this year reflecting the general restrictions around this country associated with Covid-19:

### **Hobart Branch, TAS**

Chartered 1889

The Branch continues to meet on Monday evenings. Social events included a labyrinth walk and a gallery visit. A highlight for the year was the visit of Barry Bowden who taught an 'Introduction to Theosophy' course. A great deal of voluntary time by two members has been put into updating the library database and re-organising the books. Approximately once every 6 weeks one of the Monday evening meetings are dedicated to a T.O.S related topic. A book reading group was conducted using the book "Inner Gold: Understanding Psychological Projection" by Robert A. Johnson. The Lodge also has a number of friends, not members at this time, who attend regularly.

### **Melbourne Lodge, VIC**

Chartered 1890

The Lodge has maintained a busy schedule of public events on a wide

range of topics including mandala healing; Madame Blavatsky's 'Diagram of Healing'; a "Secret Doctrine" symposium and astrology. A range of well-attended seminars were conducted on such subjects as: 'Spiritual Path of the Theosophical Movement'; 'Karma & Reincarnation'; 'Introduction to Patanjali's Yoga Sutras' and 'Psychodrama & Theosophy'. There was an extended settling-in period due to move from Russell Street premises, COVID restrictions and planned merger of bookshop and library. There was, as well, a series of conversations in the bookshop.

### **Adelaide Lodge, SA**

Chartered 1891

Monthly Members Meetings have continued, as well as monthly Theosophy Science meetings and popular quarterly events with Dianne Bellchambers. The National President visited in May and gave two talks entitled 'The Lotus and the Life of a Lodge' and 'The Vision and the Way'. Study groups were conducted around Pablo Sender's videos.

### **Brisbane Lodge, QLD**

Chartered 1895

Brisbane Lodge has continued to hold a regular programme of events. Talks included titles such as: 'Gupta Vidya' and 'Ancient Wisdom, Modern Insight'. There was a well-attended

meditation retreat held at Springbrook Centre in September. Some upgrading of facilities was undertaken, and a book sale was conducted in Oct/Nov 2021. There were four TOS meetings and a group outing to the theatre.

### **Perth Branch**

Chartered 1897

Weekly meetings have resumed and study groups were conducted on: 'The Mahatma Letters', 'Key to Theosophy' and 'Basic Theosophy'. Seminars and workshops were conducted, including one on 'The Power of Silence'. Weekly yoga and meditation meetings were held. Programme highlights for the year included talks on: 'Cosmos, Culture and Landscape'; 'Spiritualism and Psychism, A Theosophical Perspective'; 'The Coming of the Age of Aquarius' and 'Finding Meaning in Abstract Art'. Younger members of the Lodge have been encouraged to give talks. The TOS meets at the Lodge with fascinating activities that include a monthly angel meditation and a Taize-style music meditation at the Liberal catholic Church.

### **Launceston Lodge, TAS**

Chartered 1901

Seminars were held throughout the year with subjects such as: 'Discovering the Tao Te Ching'; 'The Mahabharata' and various discussions of Theosophical articles, including ones by Brian Parry and Dara Tatray. Seminars were held

on the following topics: 'Biological Aspects of the Self'; 'Qi Gong History and Practice' and 'Activating the Breath Medicine Within You'. The Lodge suspended meetings from Christmas 2021 due to COVID concerns, but they were resumed in September 2022 in new premises.

### **Blavatsky Lodge, NSW**

Chartered 1922

Blavatsky Lodge continued to hold a regular programme of events with weekly talks and occasional special events. The following study groups were also held: 'Sharing Spiritual Awareness'; 'The Mahatma Letters'; 'Krishnamurti Videos and Dialogues'; 'The Feline Mystery'; 'The Flower of Life Mystery' and regular meditations. The major re-organisation of the Adyar Library continues with great energy and enthusiasm from many volunteers. The TOS has continued to hold an open circle presentation monthly presented by TS members and by representatives of charitable organisations. Member's Meetings were also held monthly, with good attendances. A very special and crowded event was held on the 7th of May to celebrate the Lodge's centenary.

### **Newcastle Lodge, NSW**

Chartered 1941

Monthly meetings have been conducted, starting out with a Zoom presentation on 'The Bhagavad Gita:

A Teaching for Our Daily Lives'. They have continued with talks on subjects such as: 'Theosophy 101'; a discussion on a Theosophical video; 'Thunder-Perfect Mind: 'The Wisdom of the Gnostic Goddess' and short talks on the subject of 'HPB's Isis Unveiled'.

### **Sunshine Coast Lodge, QLD**

Chartered 2004

The Lodge has changed direction to two meetings per month since COVID, plus more social outings. The Lodge celebrated significant Theosophical days such as Adyar Day and White Lotus Day. A regular study group was also held on John Algeo's 'Introduction to Theosophy' and on 'Esoteric Philosophy'. Various Theosophical speakers visited, and the TOS met three times, hosting innovative activities.

## **REPORTS FROM CERTIFIED GROUPS**

Our various Certified Groups have been in existence for up to twenty-four years, and once again helped make the TS better known in their areas.

### **Blue Mountains Group, NSW**

Certified 1997

The Blue Mountains Group has been struggling to re-establish its regular weekly meetings since the onset of the pandemic. Just as they were preparing to recommence their meetings, the NSW lockdown started in late June 2021. Some of the Group are planning

to re-establish a presence in Katoomba after this hiatus.

### **Canberra Group, ACT**

Certified 2019

Covid restrictions meant that no public events were held from August 2021 until March 2022. During this time, members were encouraged to attend talks on the Zoom platform. Monthly meetings resumed after March. Some titles of presentations included: 'The Cathars'; 'The Chohan's Gaze'; and 'What is Reality?'

### **Gosford Group, NSW**

Certified 1997

Monthly meetings were held until the NSW lockdown in late June 2021. Regular meetings resumed in 2022. No report was provided for the year in review.

### **Logan Group, QLD**

Certified 2019

Logan Group continued to meet bimonthly on one Thursday evening per month and on one Thursday morning per month with a number of speakers and a book study group: 'As a Man Thinketh' and 'The Gita'. Discussions over morning coffee have provided opportunities for fellowship.

### **Mornington Peninsula Group, VIC**

Certified 2000

Once again, a number of speakers had to be cancelled during the lockdowns

in Victoria in 2021. In 2022 a number of presentations were given on varying topics, including: ‘Cycles of Life’; ‘Atlantis – is history repeating?’; ‘Ancient Wisdom; the Divine Feminine’ and ‘Mystical Ancient Egypt: What can it teach us today?’. A picnic was held at Mornington Park in December 2021.

### **Northern Beaches Group, NSW**

Certified 1996

The Northern Beaches Group, located in Sydney, has continued to hold regular monthly meetings, Covid restrictions permitting and sometimes on the Zoom platform. Some of the interesting titles on their programme included: ‘Consciousness & the Power of Thought’; ‘The Lost Land of Lemuria’; ‘A Festival of Angels’; ‘Krishnamurti and the Star of the East’; ‘The Three Enlightenments’ and ‘Contemplative Living in the Modern World’. A meditation is also held before the meetings.

### **Toowoomba Group, QLD**

Certified 2007

The Group has resumed with meetings once per fortnight for discussions and social meet-ups for coffee and fellowship. Subjects such as Meditation and the vehicles of consciousness and other topics of interest to the Group members were discussed.

### **Wodonga-Albury Group, VIC**

Certified 1996

Unfortunately, in the year under review, the Wodonga-Albury Group was forced to close down. The Group had been struggling with an aging demographic and a lack of volunteers. The pandemic made the situation much more acute and unviable.

## **THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE**

The National Coordinator reports:

Though the year has again been challenging both here in Australia and around the world it looks as if things are starting to return to some form of normality. It is an opportunity for the TOS groups in Australia to start doing the same. This will include the return of the TS Convention (in Adelaide January 2023) where the TOS will be sponsoring one of the presentations and will be holding the long overdue General Meeting. It will be a great time to reinvigorate the TOS groups and set some plans in place for the future.

This last year TOS Australia planned disbursements totalling AUD \$20,350 to the following international projects.

Syrian Refugees (via TOS-Italy)	\$4,000
Golden Link College Philippines (through the Kern Foundation)	\$2,000
Ukraine Refugees	\$500
Pakistan Home Schools	\$6,000

Pakistan student sponsorships	\$4,650
INDIA	
Olcott Memorial school Adyar	\$2,000
Women's welfare centre Adyar	\$500
Animal dispensary Adyar	\$200
HPB Hostel Adyar	\$200
TS Adyar Academy	\$300

Due to changing international financial requirements several the donations rebounded. Work is still ongoing to facilitate the completion of these payments.

Locally in Australia, through the agency of Marcello and Margaret Serini in Lismore the TOS was able to provide support for the local flood relief efforts by sponsoring some of the Koori Mail Flood Relief – Fuel Vouchers to assist with emergency power generation.

Sadly (for us) members are still transitioning to the higher plane of service. Georgina Fode, the coordinator for the Melbourne and Mornington Peninsula TOS groups and a long-time supporter of the TOS nationally, passed to higher service on ANZAC day this year.

Last year, a 20-minute presentation on “The Inner Side of Service” by the Australian National Coordinator was included in the International TOS presentation as part of the 2021 TS International Convention.

A very heartfelt thanks is given to all the national officers. Dianne and Min continue to diligently execute the roles of National Treasurer and Secretary. I am very grateful for their most excellent support. I also extend a very hearty thank you to Jean Carroll who still mentors and supports us.

Finally, thanks go to all the TOS members around Australia for your ongoing support in all this valuable work. Your efforts and loving participation at the local level continues to make it all possible.

Love and Blessings to All.

George Wester  
National Coordinator  
TOS Australia

## CONCLUSION

This concludes my Annual Report to the Australian Section which summarises and highlights the exceptional service of so many individuals around our Section. As much of Australia emerges from the global pandemic our activities are gradually reviving and the outlook for our Society in the coming year is a bright one.

Stephen McDonald

## Annual Membership Analysis of Lodge/Branch Membership as at 30/06/2022

Lodge/Branch	Members 30-Jun-21	Trans in	New	Rejoin	<b>Total In</b>	Resign	Lapse	Dec Trans out	<b>Total Out</b>	Members 30-Jun-22	Diff
Adelaide	54	0	1	1	<b>2</b>	0	10	0	<b>10</b>	46	-8
Blavatsky	139	1	15	2	<b>18</b>	9	10	1	<b>24</b>	133	-6
Brisbane	82	1	26	6	<b>33</b>	0	1	1	<b>2</b>	113	31
Hobart	17	0	2	1	<b>3</b>	3	2	0	<b>7</b>	13	-4
Launceston	11	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	1	<b>2</b>	9	-2
Melbourne	83	1	7	9	<b>17</b>	6	2	2	<b>10</b>	90	7
Newcastle	13	2	2	0	<b>4</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	17	4
Perth	155	0	13	4	<b>17</b>	3	65	0	<b>68</b>	104	-51
Sunshine Coast	25	0	2	2	<b>4</b>	0	2	0	<b>2</b>	27	2
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>-27</b>
National	121	2	4	5	<b>11</b>	7	17	1	<b>26</b>	106	-15
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>-42</b>

## National Calendar of Events

### 2023 CONVENTION PROGRAMME

The Theosophical Society in Australia

25 January – 1 February

‘New Frontiers for an Ageless Wisdom: Exploring the Powers Latent in Humanity’

Featured Speaker: Professor Emeritus Richard Silberstein

*Wed 25 January*

7.30pm Welcome, Introduction – Key Speakers, Workshops

Greetings to the Convention

Tea and Coffee

*Thu 26 January*

7.30am Morning Attunement

9.15am Official Opening of Convention

ANNUAL CONVENTION BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

Roll Call of Voting Delegates and Proxies

Roll Call of Voting Delegates and Proxies

Confirmation of Minutes of 2022 Convention Business Meeting

National President’s Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

National Treasurer’s Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Financial Statements and Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 30  
June 2022, and Auditor’s Report thereon

Budget for the Year Ending 30 June 2023

Appointment of Auditor

Announcement of Newly Appointed Officers and National Council  
Members

Announcement of Ballot Results for State Representatives:  
- Western Australia, Victoria, NSW/ACT

Vote on Notices of Motion

Place and Time of Next Convention

Resolutions of Goodwill

Any Other Business

2.00pm Talk - The Theosophical Order of Service – Barry Bowden  
*‘The Essential Journey of Service - The Path to Freedom’*

4.00pm PUBLIC TALK – FEATURED SPEAKER, Richard Silberstein  
*‘Time, Consciousness and the Enigma of Precognition’*

7.30pm DVD: *‘Infinite Potential – the Life & Ideas of David Bohm’* (subject to permission)  
- introduced by Stephen McDonald

#### *Fri 27 January*

7.30am Morning Attunement

9.15am ‘Spiritual Currency: A visual exploration of the *Papyrus of Hunefer*, also referred to as the *Egyptian Book of the Dead’*  
- Hana O’Rourke

11.00am *‘Indigenous Knowledges and the Ageless Wisdom’*  
- Olga Gostin

2.00pm The Theosophical Order of Service: Annual General Meeting

4.00pm *‘Wisdom is the Lonely Journey to the Heart’*  
- Barry Bowden

7.30pm *‘Music to Relax the Soul’*  
- Simon O’Rourke

#### *Sat 28 January*

7.30am Morning Attunement

9.15am *‘The Self, an Illusion, or the Reflection of a Deeper Reality’*  
- Richard Silberstein

11.00am *‘Legendary Atlantis and Lemuria Revealed’*  
- Victor Gostin

2.00pm Workshops  
*‘The Teachers in our Lives’*  
- Cassandra Au



*'Search for Freedom'*

- Helen Steven

4.00pm Theosophy Q&A panel – Lucille Crocker, Simon O'Rourke,  
Edward Sinclair

7.30pm Classical Concert

*Sun 29 January*

7.30am Morning Attunement

9.15am *'Thriving Through Transitions: How to harness your full potential  
in times of change'*

- Diane Bellchambers

11.00am Science Q and A

Richard Silberstein, Victor Gostin &amp; Grahame Crookham

2.00pm Workshop with Lodge/Branch Committee Members: Stephen  
McDonald/Simon O'Rourke/Pamela Peterson

4.00pm Short talks:

*'Occult Science in Medicine'*

– Stephen McDonald

*'Let Us Be Like the Sky'*

– Phillipa Rooke

7.30pm Audio-visual presentation - *'Eternity and Infinite Time: Do they  
have a place in modern science?'*

- Kevin Davey

*Mon 30 January*

7.30am Morning Attunement

9.00am OUTING AND PICNIC LUNCH

7.30pm Audio-visual presentation - *'Remembering Celia Novy: the  
fascinating life and work of a vibrant Theosophist'*

- Isolde Sultemeyer

*Tue 31 January*

7.30am Morning Attunement

9.15am *'Near Death Experiences: an update on the knowledge'*

- John Davey

11.00am Workshops

*'The Hidden Life of Numbers'*

-Edward Sinclair

*'Krishnamurti: an experience of dialogue'*

- Stephen McDonald

2.30pm *'Scientific Validation of Theosophical Clairvoyants'*

- Simon O'Rourke

4.00pm Perspectives on the Convention

Invitation to 2024 Convention, Perth

Closing of Convention (National President)

7.30pm Concert

*Wed 1 February*

Departures after breakfast

NB: there may be some minor changes to this programme during the Convention.

## ADVANCE NOTICE: 2023 SCHOOL OF THEOSOPHY, SPRINGBROOK RETREAT CENTRE, QLD

An Event for TS Members

### Theme:

*Awakening Spiritual Consciousness through  
the Heart Centre*

### Dates:

Thurs 20 April – Wed 26 April (inclusive)

### Guest presenter:

Juliana Cesano

At the core of mystical traditions lies the burning flame of the heart, as the doorway to direct Union with the Divine. Like the mystics, occultist and TS founder H. P. Blavatsky, regarded the heart centre as the seat of spiritual consciousness and provided



guidance for us to follow. In this workshop we will explore the meaning and nature of the heart from an esoteric and mystical perspective, the foundations of a heart centred meditation practice, and the essential requisites to tread this path, as taught by those who walk ahead of us.

**Bio:**

Juliana Cesano is a third-generation Theosophist and has been actively involved with the Society's work for over 25 years. Originally from Argentina, she spent two years volunteering at the international headquarters in Chennai, India, before becoming a staff member at the Theosophical Society in America in 2007. She is an international speaker, the manager of the Quest Book Shop, and the Membership Education Director for the TS in America.

**Cost:**

TBA

**Email to apply:**

*pres@theosophicalsociety.org.au*

There will also be an e-Bulletin with a registration form issued in December.

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## Minutes of the 2022 Annual Convention Business Meeting

Minutes of the Convention Business Meeting of The Theosophical Society in Australia held on Saturday January 2022 on the Zoom platform. Notification had been provided in *Theosophy in Australia* in accordance with Rules 13 and 14 of the Rules of The Theosophical Society in Australia. The meeting was opened at 10.30 am.

**CONVENTION CHAIR**

The Meeting was chaired by the National President, Stephen McDonald.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, commending their punctuality. In attendance, additional to the named below, were the National Treasurer, the National Secretary and seven members who had registered to attend. There were no Observers.

**1. ROLL-CALL OF VOTING  
DELEGATES AND PROXIES**

In accordance with Rule 17(2) of the National Rules, the names of the voting delegates and proxies must

have reached the National Secretary on Form 4 by Saturday 8 January 2022. Only those delegates identified on Form 4 by the due date were eligible to vote at the present meeting. They were noted as follows:

- Bruce Cassidy, or failing him, Simon O'Rourke, for Brisbane Lodge (both present, with Bruce arriving a little later)
- Rosanna Sheridan, or failing her, Lucille Crocker, for Blavatsky Lodge (Lucille Crocker present)
- Berry Dunston for Hobart Branch
- Ruth Holt for Launceston Lodge
- Kevin Davey, or failing him, Gaynor Fraser, for Adelaide Lodge (both present)
- Sheela Gunjur, or failing her, Arthur Hallett-West for Melbourne Lodge (both present, with Arthur arriving after the roll call)
- Joyce Thompson, or failing her, Linda Davies for Sunshine Coast Lodge (both present).

The National Secretary pointed out that The Theosophical Society in Australia is at heart a membership association, and will remain at heart a membership association even after incorporation. The members vote on agenda items at Lodge/Branch committee meetings, usually held in November or December, with the Australian Convention Business

Meeting (ACBM) taking place in January. This meeting endorses the votes of the Lodge/Branch convention business meetings. No new business can be raised at the ACBM. Voting in January can only be on very minor amendments. Any individual member, or Lodge/Branch/National executive can put a matter to a vote by sending the National Secretary a notice of motion by the due date as outlined in the Rules.

### Vote Allocation 2022

[Note to the minutes: This item was inadvertently skipped at the meeting, it should however be noted that in accordance with Rule 16 Voting at Convention, each Lodge is entitled to one vote irrespective of the size of its membership, and in addition to this, each Lodge is entitled to one vote for every 50 members in Good Standing at the end of the previous financial year (in this case, 30 June 2021). Only Lodges/Branches that held a convention business meeting may vote at an ACBM. For the 2022 meeting, the vote allocation was as follows]

Lodge	Members in Good Standing	Votes
Adelaide	41	1
Blavatsky	102	3
Brisbane	57	2
Hobart	10	1
Launceston	10	1

Melbourne	82	2
Sunshine Coast	25	1
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>11</b>
National	78	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>13</b>

## 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 2021 CONVENTION BUSINESS MEETING

The Minutes of the Convention Business Meeting held on Monday 25 January at The Sybil Centre, 15 Carillon Ave, Newtown were published in the November issue of Theosophy in Australia. The National Secretary reported that all voting Lodges/Branches voted FOR the Minutes of the 2021 Convention Business Meeting, with the exception of Melbourne Lodge, which abstained on the grounds that they were not present at the meeting. It was noted that of our nine Lodges, seven had held convention business meetings.

## 3. NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

The Chair pointed out that the National President's Annual Report for the Year ended 30 June 2021 had been sent to every member of the Section in November. The National Secretary reported that all Lodges/Branches voted FOR the Annual Report.

## 4. NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

The National Treasurer's Report for the Year ended 30 June 2021 had been sent to every member of the Section in November. The National Secretary reported that all Lodges/Branches voted FOR the National Treasurer's Report. The National Treasurer suggested that for greater detail, members should read the Budget page at the end of the financial statements. She then pointed out the reason for the two different figures in the financial statement for income from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. The Budget page shows an amount of \$104,000 as income for the year ended 30 June 2021, which figure was noted in the Treasurer's report, while \$99,194 was mentioned in a note on p.11 by the Section's accountant, referring the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT). The reason for the difference was that \$104,000 was deposited by the BCT into the bank account belonging to The Australian Section Theosophical Trust (the Canyonleigh property owner on title), and then \$99,194 was received by the bank account belonging to the TS in Australia after a few bills were paid and the balance of the funds transferred to the main account. The National Secretary pointed out that in around March 2022 the BCT will deposit its next annual

payment into the Trust's bank account. That amount will be \$102,000, and it will immediately be transferred to our main operating account.

## 5. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021 AND AUDITOR'S REPORT THEREON

The Financial Statements and Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2021 along with the auditor's report had been sent to every member of the Section in November. The National Secretary reported that all Lodges/Branches had voted **FOR** the Financial Statements, the Balance Sheet and the Auditor's Report. The Chair pointed out that the financial statements were discussed under the previous item. There were no further questions or comments.

## 6. BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022

The Budget had been sent to every member of the Section in November. A motion that the budget be received was carried (moved Berry Dunston; seconded Lucille Croker). The National Secretary reported that all Lodges/Branches had voted **FOR** the Budget. The National Secretary brought a number of items to the attention of the meeting. There was no further discussion.

## 7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The National Secretary reported that during the year, National Audits Group Pty Ltd resigned, after their appointment by the National Council in January 2021. The resignation triggered a casual vacancy, which was filled by the National Executive on 26 May 2021 when they appointed SDJA Audit Specialists as the Section's auditors. SDJA will remain as auditors until at least the January 2023 meeting of the National Council, when it is next scheduled to appoint an auditor.

## 8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTED OFFICERS

The National Secretary reported that the following appointments had been made, either by the National Council (NC) or the National Executive (EC):

**National Vice-President:**

(NC) Gaynor Fraser

**National Treasurer:**

(NC) Beatrice Malka

**Assistant Treasurer:**

(EC) Michael Svoronos

The Executive Committee for 2022 was appointed by the National Council): the National President, National Treasurer and National Secretary, as well as Denise Frost (Launceston Lodge); Edward Sinclair (Melbourne Lodge); Cassandra Au (Blavatsky Lodge);

Berry Dunston (Hobart Branch). It was noted that the National Executive had appointed Michael Svoronos to the Section's Finance Committee, in view of his offer to assist, and his extensive experience in the banking and finance industry.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF BALLOT RESULTS**

### **State Representatives for Queensland, South Australia/NT, Tasmania**

The National Secretary reported that on 12 August 2021 she declared the results in the election of the State Representatives for Queensland (Barry Bowden re-elected unopposed), South Australia/NT (Gaynor Fraser re-elected unopposed), and Tasmania (Ruth Holt elected unopposed). Given the difficulties of running a YES/NO vote during a pandemic, the National Secretary had obtained permission from the National Council to waive that requirement to call for a YES/NO vote in the event of a sole candidate. The National Secretary also reported that on 22 October 2021 she called for nominations to fill a casual vacancy caused by the resignation of the then State Representative for WA. No nominations having been received, the National Executive was called on to fill the casual vacancy in accordance with Rule 20(3)(b) of the Rules of The Theosophical Society in Australia. The EC is in the process of doing that.

## **10. VOTE ON NOTICES OF MOTION**

It was noted that there was one notice of motion for the 2022 Australian Convention Business Meeting: the motion for incorporation and adoption of the new company constitution. The National Secretary reported that all the Lodges/Branches voting at a convention business meeting voted FOR the motion. The motion to incorporate and adopt the company constitution was therefore carried. [Note to the minutes: this meant that the complex process of incorporating the TS in Australia would move to the next stage, which was for the EC to apply for incorporation. Members will be kept informed of the progress.]

## **11. PLACE AND TIME OF NEXT CONVENTION**

The Chair announced that the 2023 Convention would be held at St Mark's College Adelaide from Wednesday 25 January to Wednesday 1 February 2023. It was not possible to hold the convention at the preferred time slightly earlier in January due to a prior booking at St Mark's College.

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair called for further questions or comments.

Coordinator of the Logan Group Christine Gwin asked who the Directors

of the company would be and how would they be appointed. The National Secretary replied that the Directors would be appointed in a similar fashion to their present appointments and that she would get back to Christine with a more precise answer. Christine remarked that the TS would be a public company listed on the stock exchange. The National Secretary assured her that this was not the case: the TS would be a company limited by guarantee (The Theosophical Society in Australia Ltd), as is evident on the front page of the company constitution. Christine argued that unless it is a private company, the incorporated TS in Australia would be listed on the stock exchange. The National Secretary said that was not the case, and read out the definition of a company limited by guarantee from the ASIC website, as follows: 'A company limited by guarantee is a common company structure used for not-for-profit and charitable organisations in Australia that reinvest any surplus (profit) towards the organisation's purposes.'

Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer and Programs Coordinator of Melbourne Theosophical Society Sheela Gunjur asked what the qualifications for the Directors are, adding that for a company, the code of conduct needs to be pretty strong. Sheela also asked what secondary precautions there would

be. The Chair invited the National Secretary to respond. She did so by pointing out that the existing Rules and the company constitution both carry a comprehensive and prescriptive code of conduct. As to secondary precautions, The Theosophical Society in Australia had so far relied on good communication between Lodges/Branches and the National Society so that when serious problems arise, especially any that might threaten the assets or the name of the Lodge/Branch, prompt action may be taken. In a case in which an individual member or committee member would pose a significant threat, in the last resort, that person's membership of the TS in Australia may be terminated, which would most likely avert the threat. Another measure of last resort, more extreme, is the possible cancellation of a Lodge/Branch Charter (and therefore winding up of the Lodge/Branch) in what had to date been very rare instances of a threat of takeover. These are the only secondary precautions available at present. To this, Bruce Cassidy pointed out that the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) has a lot of clout and clearly outlines in its Six Standards the duties of Responsible Persons (committee and board members). The Chair added that there are thus internal and external precautionary mechanisms in play.



Former National President Linda Oliveira remarked that she had taken a close look at the company constitution and found that a good job has been done in incorporating the existing Rules of The TS in Australia, along with what is required of a company. The Chair stated that the company constitution had been the work of a highly qualified lawyer with the relevant expertise, assisted by the National Secretary.

Sheela Gunjur suggested that we should do as other companies do, and provide job descriptions to assist in choosing suitable Directors. The National Secretary responded by saying that board members of public companies are paid a handsome wage and are in fact professionals. The only qualifications for the volunteers serving on TS committees are the willingness to serve and the Good Standing Rule. She added that only the members can change the National or Lodge/Branch rules at a convention business meeting. Any member may put up a notice of motion and have the matter decided by the membership. The National Secretary added that Melbourne Theosophical Society has been a company for a long time, so perhaps the MTS could try to amend its Rules along these lines, keeping in mind that the change would have to be accepted by the National Society, just as changes to the National Rules

must be accepted by the International President on behalf of the Parent Society.

The Chair then stated that he would like to recognize an important matter, the departure of the long-standing National Secretary, who had decided to retire. The new National Secretary, Gayle Thomas, hailing from Toowoomba, would commence work on 2 February 2022. The Chair called for a motion from the floor in sincere appreciation of Dara Tatray's devoted service to the Theosophical Society for more ten years as National Secretary, and three years as National President before that (moved Sheela Gunjur; seconded Simon O'Rourke). The motion was carried. Linda Oliveira expressed her personal appreciation to Dara who took on the job in a difficult situation and quickly learned every aspect of it, adding that Dara has been an incredibly committed National Secretary. The Chair also thanked Dara personally for her assistance in his first year as National President.

Christine Gwin then asked the Chair what activities were planned for the year. The Chair outlined plans for the April School of Theosophy, the next convention, possibly a second event at Springbrook later in the year, his own tour of the Section, and visits to TS centres by the National Lecturers. All of which, he added, would

depend on freedom of travel. Sheila Gunjur outlined her plans for Zoom presentations hosted by Melbourne Theosophical Society. Sheila has invited several presenters from overseas, including Michele Sender (who had agreed), Tim Boyd (who had yet to respond), and several Australian presenters including the National President. Gaynor Fraser, the State Representative for South Australia/NT suggested the National Member living in the Northern Territory would almost certainly be interested. Sheila provided Gaynor with her MTS email address.

Christine Gwin then asked whether the Section could advertise the TS on radio and print media, referring people back

to the website. The Chair suggested that our advertising was these days mainly through Facebook and the website, as well as Lodge/Branch activities, adding that advertising dollars need to be spent carefully. The National Secretary pointed out that the costed business plan, when completed, would give strong indication of where the Section's time and money should be spent if the aims of the plan were to be realised. The Education Coordinator Simon O'Rourke added that much is achievable through technology, but everyone wants to get back to physical meetings.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 11.56am.

### *The Freedom and Responsibility of Lodges and Branches*

The freedom of Lodges and Branches is defined by the scope of the Society's Objects as well as its essential mandate to make Theosophy known as a practical living Wisdom, which can uplift human consciousness to a realisation of the Oneness of life. Therefore, although the Society has no official creed of its own and upholds freedom of thought, and while it is acceptable to invite some outside speakers who can contribute to the exploration of the Ageless Wisdom, it is not appropriate for our platform to be used by such speakers to actively promote other organisations or belief systems. Each Lodge and Branch was chartered by the International President to be a representative of the Society in its area. Its work and programme should reflect the character, altruistic ethos and spirit of the Theosophical Society.

*Resolution passed by the General Council of the Theosophical Society (2019)*

## **ANNUAL CONVENTION BUSINESS MEETING OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA**

The 2023 Convention Business Meeting of the Theosophical Society in Australia will take place at 9.15 am on Thursday 26 January at St Mark's College, The University of Adelaide, 46 Pennington Terrace, Adelaide, SA.

This notification is provided in accordance with Rules 13 and 14 of the Rules of the Theosophical Society in Australia.

### **AGENDA**

Roll Call of Voting Delegates and Proxies

Roll Call of Voting Delegates and Proxies

Confirmation of Minutes of 2022 Convention Business Meeting

National President's Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

National Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Financial Statements and Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 30 June 2022, and Auditor's Report thereon

Budget for the Year Ending 30 June 2023

Appointment of Auditor

Announcement of Newly Appointed Officers and National Council Members

Announcement of Ballot Results for State Representatives:

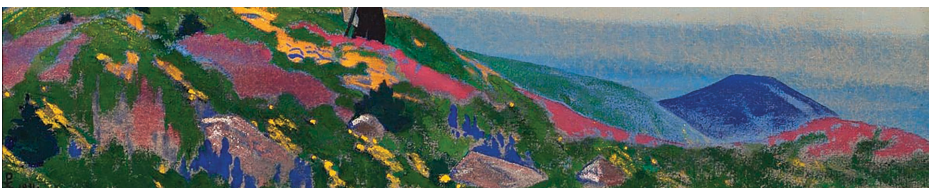
- Western Australia, Victoria, NSW/ACT

Vote on Notices of Motion

Place and Time of Next Convention

Resolutions of Goodwill

Any Other Business



## The TOS Australia National Coordinator Report 2022:



Theosophical Order of Service

Though the year has again been challenging both here in Australia and around the world it looks as if things are starting to return to some form of normality. It is an opportunity for the TOS groups in Australia to start doing the same. This will include the return of the TS Convention (in Adelaide January 2023) where the TOS will be sponsoring one of the presentations and will be holding the long overdue General Meeting. It will be a great time to reinvigorate the TOS groups and set some plans in place for the future.

This last year TOS Australia planned disbursements totalling AUD \$20,350 to the following international projects.

Syrian Refugees (via TOS-Italy)	\$4,000
Golden Link College Philippines ( <i>through Kern Foundation</i> )	\$2,000
Ukraine Refugees	\$500
Pakistan Home Schools	\$6,000
Pakistan student sponsorships	\$4,650
<i>India:</i>	
Olcott Memorial school Adyar	\$2,000

Women's welfare centre Adyar	\$500
Animal dispensary Adyar	\$200
HPB Hostel Adyar	\$200
TS Adyar Academy	\$300

Due to changing international financial requirements several donations rebounded. Work is still ongoing to facilitate the completion of these payments.

Locally in Australia, through the agency of Marcello and Margaret Serini in Lismore the TOS was able to provide support for the local flood relief efforts by sponsoring some of the Koori Mail Flood Relief – Fuel Vouchers to assist with emergency power generation.

Sadly (for us) members are still transitioning to the higher plane of service. Georgina Fode, the coordinator for the Melbourne and Mornington Peninsula TOS groups and a long-time supporter of the TOS nationally, passed to higher service on ANZAC day this year.

Last year, a 20 minute presentation on “The Inner Side of Service” by the Australian National Coordinator

was included in the International TOS presentation as part of the 2021 TS International Convention.

A very heartfelt thanks is given to all the national officers. Dianne and Min continue to diligently execute the roles of National Treasurer and Secretary. I am very grateful for their most excellent support. I also extend a very hearty thank you to Jean Carroll who still mentors and supports us.

Finally thanks goes to all the TOS members around Australia for your ongoing support in all this valuable work. Your efforts and loving participation at the local level continues to make it all possible.

Love and Blessings to All.  
George Wester

*National Coordinator  
TOS Australia*

## Review

### UNFOLDING CONSCIOUSNESS: EXPLORING THE LIVING UNIVERSE AND INTELLIGENT POWERS IN NATURE AND HUMANS

by Edi Bilimoria, DPhil, FIMechE, FEI, FRSA. Shephard-Walwyn Publishers, South-west London, England, 2022, in 4 vols. presented in a slip case, £98.50.

These four volumes are a tour de force on science and the philosophia perennis:

- I. A Panoramic Survey — Science Contrasted with the Perennial Philosophy on Consciousness and Man.
- II. Peering down the Microscope — Man's Internal Landscapes.

III. Gazing through the Telescope — Man Is the Measure of All Things.

IV. References & Resources, Further Reading.

### ENDORSEMENTS:

“When you consider the scope, width and erudition of this book, it is not surprising that it took its author over 20 years to complete.”

Dr Peter Fenwick

(Emeritus Consultant Neuropsychiatrist and Neuropsychologist at both the Maudsley and John Radcliffe hospitals)

“In contemporary, unpretentious language, it takes the reader from the spiritual mission of humanity to the principles of the universe (and back),

with careful consideration of both scientific evidence and metaphysical subtleties; and underneath it all, it seeks the traces of consciousness, in all its forms.”

Dr Ana-Maria Pascal  
(MBA, PhD, Associate Professor in Philosophy and Public Ethics, Regents University London.

“A masterly study of consciousness written by an author who roots their arguments in a profound grasp of esoteric wisdom... he brings an encyclopaedic grasp of modern physics, neuroscience, and psychology to support his supremely optimistic view that consciousness is fundamental to reality.”

B. Les Lancaster  
(Professor Emeritus of Transpersonal Psychology, Liverpool John Moores University)

“This work presents a comprehensive, lucid and well-written overview, with careful attention to detail and yet full of far-ranging and potentially transformative ideas.”

Rupert Sheldrake

### ABOUT EDI:

Born in India and educated at the universities of London, Sussex, and Oxford, Dr Edi Bilimoria is an award-winning engineer and consultant. He has given courses and lectured extensively across the world. He also worked as Education Manager for the Theosophical Society in Australia.

Dr Bilimoria has published extensively in the fields of science, engineering and the esoteric philosophy. His book *The Snake and the Rope* was awarded a prize by the Scientific and Medical Network.

With Dr. Edi Bilimoria

# UNFOLDING CONSCIOUSNESS

EXPLORING THE LIVING UNIVERSE AND INTELLIGENT POWERS IN NATURE AND HUMANS

▶ Watch Now



## News and Notes

### 147th International Convention of the Theosophical Society, Adyar, India

**Theme:** *Our Responsibility in the Interconnected World*

**Venue:** International Headquarters, Adyar, Chennai, India

**Dates:** 31 December 2022 to 4 January 2023

The Convention will be physically at Adyar, India. Selected talks and lectures will be webcast.

**Check the Convention website:** [convention.ts-adar.org](http://convention.ts-adar.org)

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### The School of the Wisdom, Adyar, India

**Theme:** *The Necessary Journey of Self-Transformation*

**Dates:** 9 – 20 January

**Facilitator:** Prof. Emeritus Ravi Ravindra

**Venue:** Blavatsky Bungalow, International Headquarters, Adyar, Chennai, India

**Times:** Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm

**More information and application:** [www.ts-adyar.org/content/school-wisdom](http://www.ts-adyar.org/content/school-wisdom)

### Brisbane Lodge of the Theosophical Society Krishnamurti Retreat

**Dates:** March 2 – 6 2023

**Venue:** Theosophical Education and Retreat Centre, 2184 Springbrook Rd., Springbrook, QLD

A retreat inquiring into, and discussing, the relevance of J. Krishnamurti's teachings to our life and society. The discussions will be informed by a selection of Krishnamurti DVDs and group dialogue.

Vegetarian meals will be served.

**Retreat cost:** \$450.00

(Short-stay or overnight visitors can be accommodated for \$120.00 per day)

(Day visitors charge: \$45.00 incl. lunch)

This is a Theosophical Society – Krishnamurti Australia retreat.

**For further information contact:** Bruce Cassidy 0404 899 422, or email [bruzer52@gmail.com](mailto:bruzer52@gmail.com)

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## Section Directory

It is advisable to check in advance to confirm resumption of meetings.

### AUSTRALIAN SECTION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Level 2, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Ph: 02 9264 7056 / 9264 6404

Fax: 02 9264 5857

Email: [tshq@theosophicalsociety.org.au](mailto:tshq@theosophicalsociety.org.au)

Web: [theosophicalsociety.org.au](http://theosophicalsociety.org.au)

Campbell Theosophical Research Library:

Email: [catalogue@theosophicalsociety.org.au](mailto:catalogue@theosophicalsociety.org.au)

Facebook: [@TheTheosophicalSocietyInAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/TheTheosophicalSocietyInAustralia)

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

#### **Canberra Group, Certified 16/11/2019**

Meet: Friends Meeting House, Crn. Bent and  
Condamine Streets, Turner.

2- 4 pm, 3rd Saturday of the month

Coordinator: Gordon Herbert

Tel: 0466 464 064

Email: [canberratheosophicalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:canberratheosophicalsociety@gmail.com)

Secretary: Barbara Harrod

Tel: 02 6254 1415

### NEW SOUTH WALES

#### **Blavatsky Lodge, Chartered 22/5/1922:**

Postal Address: PO Box 319, St Leonards NSW 1590

Meet: Suite 8, 599 Pacific Highway, St. Leonards  
NSW 2065 (entrance in Albany Street)

1.00pm Wednesdays + many others activities  
(see website for full program)

Telephone: Reception: 02 9267 6955

Email: [contact@tssydney.org.au](mailto:contact@tssydney.org.au)

Web: [sydney.theosophicalsociety.org.au/](http://sydney.theosophicalsociety.org.au/)

President: Rosanna Sheridan

Secretary: Pamela Peterson

Facebook: [@tssydney](https://www.facebook.com/tssydney)

#### **Newcastle Lodge, Chartered 3/12/1941:**

Meet: Wallsend Railway Goods Shed  
(now Wallsend Enterprise Centre),

76 Cowper Road, Wallsend

President: Patricia Bolsover

0421 699 631, [pat\\_bolsover@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pat_bolsover@optusnet.com.au)

Secretary: Jane Wilson

[zoisite888@gmail.com](mailto:zoisite888@gmail.com)

Email: [anthonybuzek61@bigpond.com](mailto:anthonybuzek61@bigpond.com)

Web: [newcastle.theosophicalsociety.org.au/](http://newcastle.theosophicalsociety.org.au/)

#### **Blue Mountains Group, Certified 13/5/1997:**

Meet: Members' Lounge, Blue Mountains

Cultural Centre, 30 Parke Street (above Coles),  
Katoomba NSW 2780

Due to Covid meetings are currently suspended

Acting Coordinator: Jessica Gemmell

Email: [tsbluemountains@gmail.com](mailto:tsbluemountains@gmail.com)

#### **Gosford Group, Certified 11/11/1997**

Meet: The Narara Community Centre,

Pandala Road, Narara NSW 2250

8.00pm 2nd Tuesday of the month

Coordinator: Vivien Wareing

Tel: 0429 088 995

Email: [vivienwareing@hotmail.com](mailto:vivienwareing@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Roni Ostergaard

Telephone: 02 4358 1413

#### **Northern Beaches Group, Certified 2/4/1996:**

Postal address and meeting address:

c/- 31 Riviera Street, Avalon NSW 2107

1.30 pm 1st Saturday of the month

Please email to confirm meetings

Coordinator: Nila Chambers

Email: [nilachambers@bigpond.com](mailto:nilachambers@bigpond.com)

### QUEENSLAND

#### **Brisbane Lodge, Chartered 21/1/1895:**

355 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane QLD 4000

Tel: 07 3839 1453

Meet: 7.30 pm Wednesdays, bookshop and library

open Monday and Friday 10.30 am - 2.30 pm and

Wednesdays 6 - 7.15 pm (see website for other events)

President: Bruce Cassidy

Secretary: Dianne Manning

Email: [brisbanelodge@theosophyqld.org.au](mailto:brisbanelodge@theosophyqld.org.au)

Web: [brisbane.theosophicalsociety.org.au](http://brisbane.theosophicalsociety.org.au)

Facebook: [@brisbanetheosophicalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/brisbanetheosophicalsociety)

#### **Logan Group, Certified 9/4/2019:**

Meet: Logan Hyperdome Library (meeting room  
downstairs) 66 -70 Mandew St, Shailer Park.

Bimonthly on the first Thursday (4 - 8 pm -  
including talk 6:30 - 7:30 pm) and the third

Thursday (9:30 am - midday).

Tel: 0418 755 496

Coordinator: Christine Gwin

Email: [loganthosophy@gmail.com](mailto:loganthosophy@gmail.com)

**Sunshine Coast Lodge, Chartered 14/10/2003:**

*Meet:* Maroochy Community Centre, 4 George Street,  
Maroochydhore on first and third Sundays at 2 pm.

*Email:* theosophy.sunshinecoast@gmail.com

*President:* Kerry Oldfield

*Secretary:* Jean Carroll/0402 805 127

*Facebook:* @theosophysunshinecoast

**Toowoomba Group, Certified 10/7/2007:**

*Meet:* East Creek Community Centre, 43 Kitchener St,  
Toowoomba QLD 4350, Sunday 2 pm fortnightly

Annual Springbrook retreat each Spring

*Co-ordinator:* Anna Robb

*Tel:* 0427 751 464

*Email:* nemesisbarry@gmail.com

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA****Adelaide Lodge, Chartered 26/5/1891:**

310 South Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

*Tel:* 08 8223 1129

*Email:* president@tsadelaide.org.au

*Web:* adelaide.theosophicalsociety.org.au

*Meet:* 10.30am, 4th Saturday, Science Group, 7-9pm

every 2nd Thursday.

(Please contact Lodge for additional meeting dates.)

*President:* Kevin Davey

*Facebook:* @adelaidetheos

**TASMANIA****Hobart Branch, Chartered 7/6/1889:**

13 Goulburn Street, Hobart TAS 7000

*Tel:* 03 6294 6195 (please leave message)

*Web:* hobart.theosophicalsociety.org.au

*Meet:* 7.30pm Mondays

*President:* Berry Dunston

*Secretary:* Patrizia Bini

*Facebook:* @theosophyhobart

**Launceston Lodge, Chartered 12/1/1901:**

*Meet:* Room 4, 8 High Street, Launceston 7250

(School for Seniors building)

Usually on the 3rd Saturday of the month,

commencing at 1.00 pm

*Web:* launceston.theosophicalsociety.org.au/

*President:* Denise Frost

*Tel:* 0400 140 624

*Secretary:* Ruth Holt

*Tel:* 0448 397 246

*Postal address:* Launceston Lodge Secretary,

c/o 66 Flinders Street, Beauty Point TAS 7270

*Email:* launcestontheosophicalsociety@gmail.com

**VICTORIA****Melbourne Lodge, Chartered 9/12/1890:**

*Meet:* 1st Flr., 234 Flinders' Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000

*Tel:* 03 8638 9007

*Email:* info@melbournetheosophy.org

*Web:* melbourne.theosophicalsociety.org.au

*Meetings:* Every Saturday from 1.30 pm

*President:* robert@melbournetheosophy.org

*Secretary:* Stephen Fiyalko

*Facebook:* @MelbourneTheosophicalSociety

**Mornington Peninsula Group, Certified 8/2/2000:**

*Meet:* Mount Eliza Neighbourhood House,

Canadian Bay Road, 1st Sunday of the month,

(12.30pm meditation + library – 1.30pm presenter +  
questions and comments)

*Acting Co-ordinator:* Alice Opper 0439 563 313

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA****Perth Branch, Chartered 10/6/1897:**

21 Glendower Street, Perth WA 6000

*Tel/Fax:* 08 9328 8104

*Email:* tsp Perth@iinet.net.au

*Web:* tsp Perth.com.au

*Meet:* 7.30pm Tuesdays

*Library hours:* Tues 6 – 7:15 pm, Wed - Fri 1 – 4 pm,

Sat 10 am – 2 pm.

*President:* John Dawey

*Secretary:* Jean Dawson

*Facebook:* @TheTheosophicalSocietyInPerth

**Mount Helena Retreat Centre:**

1540 Bunning Road, Mt Helena WA 6082

All enquiries to Perth Branch

*Tel:* 08 9328 8104

**THEOSOPHICAL EDUCATION AND  
RETREAT CENTRE, SPRINGBROOK, QLD**

2184 Springbrook Road, Springbrook QLD 4213

*Tel:* Office/Hall 07 5533 5211

*Email:* info@tsretreat.com.au

*Caretaker:* Kay Schiefelbein

## *Freedom of Thought*

As the Theosophical Society has spread far and wide over the world, and as members of all religions have become members of it without surrendering the special dogmas, teachings and beliefs of their respective faiths, it is thought desirable to emphasise the fact that there is no doctrine, no opinion, by whomsoever taught or held, that is in any way binding on any member of the Society, none of which any member is not free to accept or reject. Approval of its three Objects is the sole condition of membership. No teacher, or writer, from H.P. Blavatsky onwards, has any authority to impose his or her teachings or opinions on members. Every member has an equal right to follow any school of thought, but has no right to force the choice on any other. Neither a candidate for any office nor any voter can be rendered ineligible to stand or to vote, because of any opinion held, or because of membership in any school of thought. Opinions or beliefs neither bestow privileges nor inflict penalties.

The Members of the General Council earnestly request every member of the Theosophical Society to maintain, defend and act upon these fundamental principles of the Society, and also fearlessly to exercise the right of liberty of thought and of expression thereof, within the limits of courtesy and consideration for others.

*Resolution passed by the General Council  
of the Theosophical Society (1924)*



## *Freedom of the Society*

The Theosophical Society, while cooperating with all other bodies whose aims and activities make such cooperation possible, is and must remain an organisation entirely independent of them, not committed to any objects save its own, and intent on developing its own work on the broadest and most inclusive lines, so as to move towards its own goal as indicated in and by the pursuit of those objects and that Divine Wisdom which in the abstract is implicit in the title, ‘The Theosophical Society’.

Since Universal Brotherhood and the Wisdom are undefined and unlimited, and since there is complete freedom for each and every member of the Society in thought and action, the Society seeks ever to maintain its own distinctive and unique character by remaining free of affiliation or identification with any other organisation.

*Resolution passed by the General Council  
of the Theosophical Society (1949)*



## The Three Objects of the Theosophical Society

I. To form a nucleus of the **Universal Brotherhood of Humanity** without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour.

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II. To encourage the study of **Comparative Religion, Philosophy and Science.**

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III. To investigate unexplained laws of **Nature** and the powers latent in the human being.