



Theosophical Order of Service New Zealand

TOS NZ Report for year end 31 August 2018

Springtime already and a new TOS New Zealand year begins after some reflect upon the last twelve months. We have had a fruitful year in supporting our long-term projects going into the future. The majority of TS branches around New Zealand do some form of TOS activity, from either sponsoring a child and/or supporting various projects either locally or overseas. The key aspect here is *service in action*, with people working and coming together in service to humanity.

We continue to publicise our activities through the Theosophical Society's magazine *TheoSophia*. It is an invaluable way to tell our supporters of the TS/TOS all around New Zealand and the world about the happenings that TOS New Zealand has been involved in. I am always thankful to the TS in NZ for their overwhelming support of TOS NZ. A bonus is that our activities are preserved for future reference in the archives at the National Section Library.

Our activities over the last 12-24 months are listed below:

- 1) Continued Sponsorship of Two literacy centres in Pakistan.
- 2) Individual child sponsorships in both Pakistan and India – 44 children in total sponsored from New Zealand
- 3) The Geoffrey Hodson Memorial Scholarship fund in the Philippines has been topped up again this year with a further \$6000 (USD4246.70) and the scholarship will be able to support three students annually from 2018. The trustees of this fund keep a very close eye on the financial side of things, which are held in the Philippines and are reported on yearly to the trustees.
- 4) Various TS branches from around New Zealand bring their people together for fundraising events each year to support sponsor children, donate to TOS NZ projects and other small projects within NZ as part of their branch programmes.
- 5) Adyar Renovation Fundraiser – TOS Auckland group raised the sum of \$2000 on their Adyar Day celebrations to help the branch sponsor this very worthwhile project.
- 6) Donation of \$1000 to the Auckland City Mission.

The Geoffrey Hodson Bookfund, has a sum of USD4500 and this is maintained in the Philippines.

TOS New Zealand's child sponsorship programme sponsors 25 children in Pakistan and 19 in India. Vicki Jerome is the co-ordinator of this programme. Total child sponsorships from New Zealand are 44 children.

TOS has a permanent presence at HPB Lodge, Auckland with a table selling second hand books and raffles. This table and display creates a strong TOS presence at the branch. TOS is very visible on the TheosoFest Open Day held in March each year.

In January of this year we were privileged to have the opportunity to interview TOS Supporter Lily Boyd at the TOS Session of the TS Summer National Convention held in Palmerston North. Lily spoke on the highlights and challenges of the TOS Project she initiated at Adyar to improve the lives of women in one of the Vocational Training centres.

This year we lost some big supporters of the TOS in NZ, John Sell from Auckland who creatively made the TOS bookmarks that we all know and love, and Max Clift, long term TOS supporter from Auckland. We will miss both of these beautiful smiling faces and their huge generosity towards the TOS projects in NZ. We wish them both well on the next stage of their journey.

There are a number of people I would like to thank on behalf of the TOS NZ for their support: National President of TSNZ John Vorstermans, the team at National section, Vicki Jerome for child sponsorships, Valerie White for her continued support, and Juliet Eden for helping with receipts. Special thanks go to Elizabeth Sell, Diana Dunningham Chapotin, Elizabeth Olivan, Rekha Nehar Shardar and Vic Hao Chin for their oversight with the Geoffrey Hodson Scholarship Fund in the Philippines. Thanks also to the editor of TheoSophia, Pamela Zane Keys, it is a pleasure to deal with Pamela on our TOS pages for the magazine. A special thank you to Nancy Secrest the International Secretary for all her hard work, support and coordination of the TOS at the International level. Nancy is based at Adyar, Chennai, India. Thanks to the TS Branch Presidents and TOS liaisons from around New Zealand who support TOS activity at their branch. Many members from across all walks of life in New Zealand have shown great dedication and commitment to the TOS, highlighting the importance of active service as part of the spiritual journey.

Lastly, thank you to my family who support me and to all who have supported the work with time, effort, dedication and donations, a real team effort, THANK YOU on behalf of TOS NZ.

Renée Sell

National Coordinator

30 September 2018

Literacy Centres in Pakistan





Geoffrey Hodson Scholarship recipients at the Golden Link College in the Philippines: Diana Rose Orilla (right) and Aldana Amor Tradio



From left to right, Rekha Nahar Sharda (GLC School Principal) Diana Rose Orilla (1st GH Fund recipient) Mejica, Maria Cristina (former student of GLC) and Mary Grace Arboleda (Scholarship-incharge of GLC)

Renee Sell, interviewing TOS supporter Lily Boyd. Lily spoke on the highlights and challenges of the project she initiated to improve the lives of women in one of the Vocational Training Centres at Adyar, Chennai, India.

