

Celebrating over 80 years of Community Service

CONTACT!

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TOC H SOUTH AUSTRALIA AREA

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JULY/AUGUST, 2009

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

Hello there

By the time you read this message I'll be in England supporting the Aussies in the 3rd Ashes Test at Edgbaston, where I lived for the second half of 1971. This will be a special trip for Christine and me as we travel through the UK and Europe, and spend time with friends we have made over the years.

During the first week in September we will spend a couple of days in Poperinge and make our base at Talbot House. We have arranged to meet with members of Toc H Belgium and really look forward to the occasion. No doubt there will be much to talk about.

However, before I depart, there is some good news that I would like to share with you!

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Toc H South Australia has just completed an application to become a Licensed Operator for the 'Dukes' Award. This represents the culmination of four months of talks and meetings and a submission by the Toc H Youth Volunteer Action Team (Toc H YVAT) based on our current activities at the Princes and Saints school groups.

'Dukes' believe that the Toc H Youth Volunteer model for community service activity is very appropriate for their award participants and they will begin to promote it during their school presentations commencing in February 2010.

Initially we have a limited capacity to absorb the award participants into our program and 'Dukes' understand our position and will work with us to manage the situation. Over time, though, we aim to substantially increase our capacity to offer places for more award participants to perform their community service.

Consider the numbers. At the present time 'Dukes' are taking applications for 1,700 applicants in South Australia each year and some 1,000 of these are based in the Adelaide region. If our program can eventually

(say, in 5 years time) accommodate 10% of the participants – bearing in mind that a significant number of participants will choose to plan and perform their own activity – it will mean the equivalent of 5 more school groups performing as Toc H Youth Volunteers.

Toc H YVAT recognises this opportunity as an exciting challenge and plans to work hard to develop the full potential it offers. 'Dukes' have indicated their belief that Toc H is a natural partner with them and they look forward to the benefits, for all parties, which will flow in due course from this partnership.

Yours in Toc H,

Michael Thomas

REPORT ON CAMP FOR REFUGEES

A new initiative in camping began this July in partnership with STTARS, when 21 children, all of whom arrived in Australia as refugees, were taken to the campsite for a weekend of fun, exploration, respite, adventure, the chance to make new friends, and just be kids at play.

From the moment they arrived, the children were buzzing playing with all types of sporting equipment. The children visited Urimbirra Wildlife Park (koala patting was a favourite), an afternoon at the beach, and a Penguin tour. Other activities included drum playing, art and craft, soccer, bike riding etc.

We are grateful to **Nicola Trenorden**, and her staff from STTARS—**Michael Caruana**, **Manon Van Zuijle**, **Anne Bourne**, together with several fantastic STTARS volunteer leaders, and to new Toc H volunteer, **Maria Barac**.

We gratefully acknowledge the Grant received from the **Morialta Trust** to enable this camp to be held. It is hoped that this will be a yearly event.

Mostyn Clarke

Many thanks to **Mostyn and Nicola** for their planning and leadership. *Ed.*

FROM THE BRANCHES

- Congratulations to **Vivia Jones**, who celebrated her 90th Birthday at the Burnside Branch meeting in June with a birthday cake - but only nine candles"!
- **Lois Hall** (8370 2250) or **Pauline O'Daniel** (8271 2530) would like to hear from anyone who has surplus fruit suitable for jams, marmalades or chutneys - anytime from now to next March!"
- We hear that **Lindsay Honeyman** from Victor Harbor is enjoying playing golf again following his hip surgery.



CHRIS WINNALL

On **Saturday, 20th June** a plaque was presented to **Christopher (Ian Hyde) Winnall** as a token acknowledgement of the service he has given to Toc H in South Australia over a great number of years. The reason for the presentation at this time was because he gave up being Treasurer at the end of 2008 and, for the first time for about 16 years he is not on the Area Executive.

This paragraph is not intended to be a full 'thank you' to Chris – there would not be space as Chris has been active in Toc H for over 50 years. Christopher has given up the position of Treasurer and is taking a break from the Executive to maintain contact with his daughter, Wendy, and son, Martin, and their families who now live in Melbourne and Queensland respectively. He and Jan will probably use some of their new freedom to see a bit more of Australia with their caravan.

Thank you, Chris, for being an excellent and reliable Treasurer, who has handed the books over to Malcolm in a very healthy state.

The photo opposite shows Chairman, Michael Thomas, presenting Chris with his plaque.

SHOE BOXES ARE 'ON' AGAIN

Last year Toc H in South Australia we filled 92 shoe Boxes for the Samaritan's Purse '**Operation Christmas Child**'.

This year we hope to do better.

The Toc H Office has stocks of boxes ready for this year's project.

Why wait until the deadline of late October? Get your boxes now and start looking out for items to go in them. Encourage others to take boxes too.

Leaflets are supplied with the boxes but, in brief the following list of items you can and can't put in is useful:

Yes

Something to love: Teddy bear, doll, soft toy

Something special: Bangles, necklaces, craft items, stickers

Something for school: Exercise book, pencil case, colouring pencils, eraser, chalk

Something to play with: Tennis ball, cars, skipping rope, marbles, yo-yo, finger puppet, wind-up torch

Something to wear: T-shirt, shorts, underwear, cap, beanie, thongs

Personal hygiene: Tooth brush, hair brush, comb, hair clips



No

Items that melt: Toothpaste, shampoo, plasticine, play dough, batteries

Food or lollies of any kind: customs regulations
Used or damaged items, including clothing and toys – customs regulations

Breakable items

Anything that can scare or harm: toy guns, war related toys

Any gambling related item: play money, playing cards

Anything of a religious, racial or political nature.

VIETNAM CHILD STUDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

We are supporting this project again this year.

Owen Nichols, Toc H Queensland, is coordinating the project. **Youth With a Mission – Mercy Relief and Development (Vietnam)** is the organization in the field.

Last year individuals and branches in South Australia sponsored 13 children at \$25 each.

Here again are the details of the project -

Goal: To assist children who are in danger of dropping out of the school system to continue their education by providing text books, exercise books, stationery and supplies, a school bag and, in some instances, adequate clothing.

Process: Meetings are held in each community to identify selection criteria for children.

Selection: community and school representatives, government and YWAM representatives.

Parents or Caregivers commit to send their child to school for the whole year.

Commitment and money (\$25) should be given to Mary in the office **by the end of September** – cheques payable to Toc H Queensland.

See the detailed report included with this newsletter.
David Hall

BIG QUIZ

As advised earlier, the 2009 Big Quiz will be held in a few more weeks, so do arrange a table

(8 people) and come along and join in the fun of this important fundraiser.



In addition to GREAT QUESTIONS, organised by former members of St Peter's School Group (Saints TAG), there will be a SILENT AUCTION.

We hope to see YOU on
SATURDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER

7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start
at the Burnside Ballroom,
Burnside Council Chambers

Cost: \$10 per head

BYO drinks and nibbles

Tea and coffee available

Table bookings with Mary — 8443 8076

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE

The 2010 Course will be held in
Adelaide at
St Mark's College
Pennington Tce, North Adelaide

from

**MONDAY, 11th JANUARY to
FRIDAY, 15TH JANUARY**

If you know of any young people (aged between 16 and 25 years) who may be interested in participating in this excellent course, please contact Mary at the office as soon as possible.

Application Forms and further information is now available, and can be sent to you.

Full cost is \$350 - a deposit of \$100 is due by

27th November

We are looking to have a good number of local participants.

REPORT ON WINTER CAMP

Another July and all was ready for the annual winter camp. It was a weekend over which the heavens continuously feed much needed rain, but this by no means dented the enjoyment of the camp.

With hard work from the leaders involved the children where able to enjoy a variety of indoor activities ranging from art and craft, a mini-Olympics morning, quiz night, scone baking, activities in the Recreation Hut, ping pong ball hunt, exploring the new board walk in the scrub, crazy crabs, canvas painting, many quiet free-time activities, toasted marshmallows and we even managed to go to the play ground when the heavens eased off for a short stretch of time. Wow!

The leaders were tired, the children where thrilled — a great camp for all concerned.

To all of the leaders who volunteered to come along - a special thankyou for your help and enthusiasm for what can be a tough and tiring job. You all helped to make it a camp to remember for the kids, so 'thank you'

Daniel Roberts, Jess Byrnes, Nicole Casement, Monica Hoare, Tim Hoare, Chris Shiers, Michael Cormack, Catriona Morgan, Gabbie Bagriela, Scott Nicholls, Billy Mitchell, Nicola Duncan, Damon Hopkins, Sarah Weckert and Peta Duncan.

'A good army marches on its stomach' - so I would like to thank **Darrell, Guy and Lara Hamlyn** for all their hard work behind the scenes in the kitchen. So many mouths to feed and also some extra considerations to work with.

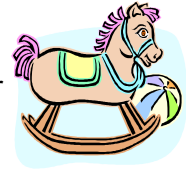
Mostyn Clarke

Many thanks to **Mostyn** for all his hard work in organising and leading this camp.

MATTERS FINANCIAL

- Many thanks to all those members and friends who sold and bought tickets in the recently drawn 2009 **Australian Central Community Lottery**. Toc H has raised \$800 through your efforts. We are very appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this professionally run Lottery. *Perhaps next year we can sell even more tickets!*
- Just a reminder to any **General Members and Friends** who may not yet have paid 2009 **subscriptions** — could you please send in your cheque or direct deposit payment as soon as possible. Thanks.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



- Congratulations to **Michael and Kirsty Terrington** on the birth of **Grace Louise**, a sister for William.
Michael is the Camp Administrator and Chairman of the Camp Board of Management.
- We are delighted that we have successfully applied for a Recreation and Sport Grant from the **The City of Victor Harbor** to assist with lighting of the **volleyball court**—this follows a Grant from the Council last year to upgrade the court.
- We also gratefully acknowledge a generous donation from the **Rotary Club of Victor Harbor** also to be put towards the above project. The volleyball court is used consistently, and the ability to play under lights (especially during the warmer weather) will further enhance its use.
- The next gathering of the WayBack Group will be on **MONDAY, 31ST AUGUST** at 12 noon—*please note the change of day.*
- Just a reminder that **TUESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER** is **MICHAELMAS DAY**. If you would like to participate in this time of prayer and meditation, please advise Mary, as a roster will be prepared shortly.
- **OUR ANNUAL BADGE DAY IS ON 18TH SEPTEMBER**— we hope that **YOU** are able to help us in the city for just an hour or two 'Many hands make light work'. Please phone or email Mary if you can assist us.



BRANCH AND AREA DATES

August

Tuesday	4th	Victor Harbor — 74th birthday celebrations at Urimbirra Restaurant 12.00 pm
Monday	10th	Prospect — Tea Night
Saturday	15th	Camp Board of Management Meeting—Victor Harbor
Tuesday	18th	Burnside — no meeting
Monday	24th	Prospect — to be advised
Monday	31st	WayBack Group luncheon—12 noon

September

Tuesday	1st	Victor Harbor—Guest speaker: Rev Sir Keith Seaman
Thursday	3rd	Southern Region Executive Meeting at Toc H Centre
Monday	14th	Prospect—Tea Night
Tuesday	15th	Burnside Branch—Birthday Dinner
BADGE DAY	18TH	IN CITY
BIG QUIZ	19TH	BURNSIDE BALLROOM—Council Chambers
Monday	22nd	Prospect—to be advised
Wednesday	30th	Southern Region Executive Meeting at Toc H Centre

Take time to think;
It is the course of power.
Take time to play;
It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read:
It is the fountain of wisdom
Take time to pray:
It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to laugh:
It is music of the soul.
Take time to give:
It is too short a day to be selfish.



Author unknown

TOC H SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

OFFICE HOURS:	Mondays	9.30 am to 3.30 pm
	Wednesdays	9.30 am to 2.30 pm
	Thursdays	9.30 am to 3.30 pm

REPORT

CHILD STUDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2008

LOCATION: 15 Communes where YWAM is currently working. See the list below.

SITUATION: A key strategy for poverty alleviation is education, and while Vietnam as one of the highest literacy rates in the developing world, this remarkable achievement is in danger of slipping. Since Vietnam opened the door to market reform policies, services that were once free, such as education and health care are now only accessible to those who have money to pay. And while families who have a 'government poverty registration' (their income is less than \$2 per day) are exempt certain education fees, in practice the percentage of poor children in some communes is so high that the school can not operate without charging some sort of fee. The families also must buy educational supplies such as exercise books, text books, workbooks and pens and pencils. This expense is often too great for the families to provide. Families will sacrificially try to enable their children to complete their education, but when there isn't enough for food on the table there is no other choice than to withdraw their children from school as they can't afford textbooks or school fees.

GOAL OF THE PROJECT: To assist the children who are in danger of dropping out of the school system, to continue their education by providing text books, exercise books, stationary and supplies, a school bag and in some instances adequate clothing for the continue with their education.

PROCESS: Statistics on poverty and population were collected from each location and based on those statistics the number of children we could help in each commune was calculated. Meetings were held in each of the communes to identify selection criteria for children. These needed to be very clear as the need is overwhelming and far exceeds the limited available resources. If the selection process is not done carefully there is a great potential for social conflict and accusations of favouritism. So the selection process was done a transparent way.

Selection Team

The selection team consisted of representatives of mass organisations, primary and secondary school, Hamlet leaders as well as Communist party and People's Committee representatives

Selection criteria

Must be registered as a poor family
Child orphaned or abandoned by one or both parents
There is serious or chronic sickness or disability in the family
The family has met with some disaster in the recent past
The family has many children.

These criteria were weighted by the leadership according to how they saw the seriousness of these contributing factors. Each family was visited by a delegation and their situation assessed. The scores of the children visited in each commune were tallied and the children selected to benefit from the project was based on those scores.

The supplies were purchased and a ceremony was held to present the children with their school supplies for the school year 2008-2009. This process took place before the new school year began. The parents or caregivers of children receiving this assistance made a commitment to send their child to school for the whole year.

RESULTS:

The children received, grade appropriate text books, exercise books, notebooks, pens pencils and other study equipment required for their grade as well as a school bag if they were lacking and in some cases a set of clothes.

District	Name of Commune	No. of children assisted
Ba Vi, Ha Tay	Van Thang	44
	Phu Dong	40
	Phu Cuong	42
	Co Do	40
	Tong Bat	27
	Van Hoa	57
	Tan Linh	78
	Phu Chau	88
	Phu Phuong	54
	Dong Thai	104
Hoai Duc, Ha Tay	Kim Chung	26
	Cat Que	32
Ha Dong, Ha Tay	Yen Nghia	20
Luc Nam, Bac Giang	Bac Lung	104
	Kham Lang	30
TOTAL	15 communes	786

For more detailed information about project beneficiaries please contact the YWAM office.

TOTAL BUDGET

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT in VND	
School supplies	103,506,000	Includes school bags, books, work books, and stationary and clothes
Administration costs	9,485,900	Including transportation and project officer expenses
TOTAL	112,999,900	

DONORS: Donations were received from Toc H Australia, COM and other individual donors.