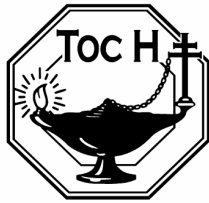


Celebrating over 80 years of Community Service



CONTACT!

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TOC H SOUTH AUSTRALIA AREA

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2009

FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

Hello there.

As 2009 draws to a close may I wish all members, volunteers and supporters of the Toc H Movement in South Australia a very happy and refreshing Festive Season and I hope that 2010 will bring you all much to enjoy.

I am aware that in 2010 one Toc H event will bring much to enjoy for the members of the Victor Harbor Branch when they celebrate their 75th anniversary in October. More about this event will be offered around the middle of next year.

Toc H link with St Peter's College – In the beginning

I have long been aware that many old scholars from Princes, Scotch and Saints were actively involved with the Toc H Movement in South Australia between WWI and WWII. I was not aware until recently, however, that there was a more direct link with one of these schools.

It was suggested to me a couple of years ago that a historical link between Toc H and St Peter's College existed and so I decided to do some research. I started with the earliest editions of *The Link*, the official national journal of Toc H, and the early newsletters and minutes relating to activities in South Australia – between the period of 1925, when Toc H was established in Australia, and 1930.

I didn't gain a lot of information but two items did attract my attention. The first was in regard to Toc H policy at the time – involvement of school students was discouraged until after the completion of secondary studies. The second was that Rev. Julian Bickersteth, the much revered headmaster of Saints during the period 1920 to 1933, had been a guest speaker on a number of occasions at Toc H meetings in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide. These bits of information gave credence to the story I heard some years ago that Julian Bickersteth would often speak with boys in their final year about engaging with Toc H after they left school. No real direct links here though, so I decided to give it a rest. That was until early this year when I became the recipient of the missing piece of information.

By chance John Hodgetts, an old friend and Toc H supporter, gave me a copy of an article written about the Hughes family who lived in the stately home of 'Athelney' which adjoined the grounds of St Peter's College in Hackney. The Hughes family lived there from 1918 to 1952, when the property was purchased by the college. Over these many years Edgar and Ita Hughes developed a strong association with the school, and none more so than the relationship they developed with Julian Bickersteth after he arrived at the school in 1920.

The article goes on to state as follows.... "the first meeting to launch Toc H was held in Athelney when the Rev. P T B Clayton visited Adelaide on one of his many world tours."

The visit to Adelaide by Philip 'Tubby' Clayton was of course in 1925 when he gained the support from a number of influential people. The article doesn't state that Julian Bickersteth was at the meeting but I have no doubt that he was there, and most likely set the meeting up. Following further research, I also have no doubt that both men were previously well acquainted. Consider these facts:

Both men were born in 1885. Both attended Oxford University and were ordained as Anglican clerics in 1910. Both men had an association with Australia (Tubby was born in Queensland and Julian had been chaplain at Melbourne Grammar School prior to WWI). Both enlisted as Army Chaplains in 1915 – initially sent to France and then to Flanders. Both men were awarded the Military Cross for their deeds and both remained bachelors, committed to their Christian faith and vocations.

More importantly though was the trait that these two men shared – their ability to inspire young men to achieve and grow – Julian as an acknowledged educator and Tubby as the founder of a worldwide community service organisation.

And Now - with a School Toc H Group

The Saints Toc H Action Group (Saints TAG) involves Year 11 students, in the main, and some Year 12 students. The Group has just completed an impressive schedule of community service activities during 2009 with up to 35 students having participated in the varied program. It has been part of the school community now for 8 years and each year just seems to get busier and better. The program schedule and format of the activities has been developed over this time with a lot of input from the boys. It has enabled Toc H to present a 'template' that can work in other secondary schools who wish to expand their community service offerings to students. It has also been accepted as an appropriate community service model for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and will be adopted in 2010 in partnership with Toc H South Australia.

And so, the link, established in the beginning by Tubby Clayton and Julian Bickersteth now continues, and we hope will remain so for many years to come.

Yours in Toc H,

Michael Thomas

Acknowledgement:

The article about the Hughes family is taken from The Adelaide Church Guardian, October, 1974 and biographical information about Rev. Julian Bickersteth is taken from the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Both sources are from articles written by Rev. J S C Miller, a former headmaster of St Peter's College.

Members, Friends and Volunteers
are invited to attend the

A
G
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

Toc H South Australia Inc

to be held on

FRIDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2009

at

7.30 pm
at the Toc H Centre

A
G
M

Supper will follow the meeting

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE:

Plans are well under way for an exciting 2010 course to be held at **St Mark's College** from **11th to 15th January**.

If you are aged between 16 and 23, why not consider attending this excellent course which deals with the many aspects of leadership, hear some excellent speakers, and make some new friends.

Further information and application forms are available from Mary at the office.

Check our website and read comments from past participants.

KIDS' SUMMER CAMP:

Do you enjoy interacting with children? Would you enjoy being on camp? **Yes then we need you!**

Vacancies exist for capable leaders to look after kids in need (aged 7 to 11 years) who will be attending our Summer Camp from 27th to 31st December.

Can you help? Full training will be given. A National Police Certificate is required for all volunteers. You may be able to contribute some music, games or other activities to help provide these kids with some great experiences, while having fun yourself.

FROM OUR CHAPLAIN:

In December, 1903, the Wright brothers were finally successful in getting their 'flying machine' off the ground. Naturally, they were very excited and they sent a telegraphed message back to their sister Katherine—"We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas."

Katherine was thrilled, and took this message to show to the editor of the local newspaper.

He apparently glanced at it and said, "Oh, that's good. The boys will be home for Christmas". He seemed to miss the main point ... the Wright Brothers had finally flown!!!

In a similar way, many people miss the main point of Christmas. The focus of Christmas for them is on the festivities .. Eating and drinking, buying and receiving gifts, gatherings with family and friends etc. They give very little, if any, thought to the wonder of the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the World.

Now, of course, there is nothing wrong with Christmas celebrations as such. But how easily we can miss the true significance of the season. The real meaning of the Christmas season is highlighted by the words of the Angel to the shepherds one night many years ago—"I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the City of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2: 10-11).

This is the big news of CHRISTMAS! God's greatest gift to us is that of his Son our Lord Jesus Christ. 'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.' (2 Corinthians 9: 15)

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Bryan Sellars





SLOWDOWN X:

The picture (at left) shows a group of Toc H volunteers from St Peter's College involved with **Slow-Down** on **Monday, 28th September**.

In the centre foreground, holding the sign is co-founder Tony McGuinness of the McGuinness McDermott Foundation.

The 37 Toc H volunteers were represented by large groups from St Peter's College and Prince Alfred College.

Many thanks to all for your wonderful help. This fun event raised \$180,000 to support sick children in South Australia.

CAMPSITE NEWS:

Welcome Ashley -

We have pleasure in welcoming **Ashley Triffett** to the Toc H campsite. Ashley has joined the staff at the campsite as a part-time employee, working in a variety of tasks, including cleaning.

Ashley is no stranger to Toc H, as he lives nearby and was employed through the Work for the Dole Scheme on several projects at the campsite. In addition, Ashley has been a very valuable volunteer at the campsite assisting our camp caretaker, **Roydon Ellison**.

We look forward to a long and happy association with Ashley.

Rental of Coinda -

A decision has been made to permanently rent our holiday house Coinda, initially for a trial period of 12 months. This was made necessary as Coinda has been hired for short term holidays insufficiently often to keep the property viable.

Following the erection of a perimeter fence around the property and the installation of a new stove, a suitable tenant will be sought.

AN INVITATION

Members and Friends are invited to attend the Annual

WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT CEREMONY for Toc H South Australia

to be held in the Toc H Centre
on
SATURDAY, 12TH DECEMBER

The celebration will commence with a barbecue meal at
7.00 pm. Everyone welcome.

This year's Message comes from Poperinge in Belgium.

Please advise Mary if you are able to attend.

VALE—JOYCE RUSSELL

Toc H was saddened by the sudden passing of **Joyce Russell** on 17th October, aged 83 years.

Joyce initially joined Toc H in 1953, and after an absence of several years, became re-involved in the Movement in 1987, as a General Member. Joyce's husband was also a member of Toc H for several years before his death in 1964.

We extend sympathy to Joyce's sons, David and Christopher and their families.



WEBSITE:

Take a look at our new website which is now 'on line'.

We sincerely thank Daniel Roberts for all his time in preparing this. You can find us at

www.tochsa.org

A Sunday School Teacher in Edinburgh, Scotland had given the children a very detailed account of the hardships that Joseph and Mary faced as they trudged around Bethlehem trying to find accommodation. The teacher told them how eventually Joseph and a very pregnant Mary, had to take refuge in a stable as they had been advised that there was no room at the inn.

The following Sunday, at the start of the Sunday School lesson, a small lad raised his hand and asked the teacher "Excuse me, I was just wonderin' if there is any word of yon folk that were lookin' for a hoose?"

TOC H VIETNAM TRAINING PARTNERSHIP:

This Toc H National Project is in two parts: Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes and the Child Study Assistance program. This is the second year that we have been involved, and we have improved on last year's effort.

Shoe Boxes—

At the time of 'going to press' this project has not been finalised, but so far 80 boxes have been handed in -

Burnside Branch through Glenunga Uniting Church	17
St Saviour's, Glen Osmond	31
Branch members	4
Prince Alfred College	25
Toc H members	3



There are 11 boxes to come in from St Peter's College, and about 20 from Victor Harbor Branch and some others. **This would make a grand total of 113 boxes. An excellent effort.**

Child Study Assistance—

Sponsorships cost \$25 each and are a simple and very effective way of supporting children in the poorer northern parts of Vietnam to stay at school. We have forwarded \$350 for 14 sponsorships.

Burnside Branch	5 sponsorships
Victor Harbor Branch	4 sponsorships
RSL	4 sponsorships
General Member	1 sponsorship

Congratulations to all members, volunteers and friends involved. I invite individual members to consider a greater involvement next year—particularly in the Child Study Assistance program—as I believe this project to be particularly worthwhile.

David Hall

BRANCH AND AREA DATES

November

Tuesday	3rd	Victor Harbor—Christmas Planning
Monday	9th	Prospect—Tea Night
Tuesday	17th	Burnside—Meeting
Wednesday	18th	Regional Executive Meeting
Monday	23rd	Prospect—Guest speaker: Rev'd Peter Randle

December

Tuesday	1st	Victor Harbor—Christmas Party
Saturday	5th	Camp Board of Management Meeting at campsite
Saturday	12th	World Chain of Light at Toc H Centre at
Monday	14th	Way-Back Group—Christmas lunch at Toc H Centre
Wednesday	16th	Regional Executive Meeting

The Executive of Toc H South Australia Inc extends to all our Members, Friends and Volunteers best wishes for a very special, safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to your participation in events in 2010.

The office will be closed from 22nd December until 4th January.
Note the office will be open on Tuesday, 22nd December.



Gifts anyone can afford—

- The Gift of Listening ... *especially to someone lonely*
- The Gift of Affection ... *be generous with those you love*
- The Gift of Laughter ... *says "I love to laugh with you"*
- The Gift of a Game ... *offer to play someone's favourite*
- The Gift of a Favour .. *for someone who can do with some help*
- The Gift of a Compliment ... *for those being taken for granted*
- The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition ... *everyone benefits + yourself*
- The Gift of Solitude ... *everyone enjoys some time alone*
- The Gift of Prayer ... *let your special people know that you talk to God about them.*

TOC H SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

NEW OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9.00 am to 3.30 pm