

**Celebrating over 80 years of Community Service**

# CONTACT!

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TOC H SOUTH AUSTRALIA AREA

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**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2009**

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

### Hello there

Well doesn't time fly? Here we are again with the next issue of 'Contact' and I'm back from our trip to the United Kingdom and Europe already. Mind you, it's good to be back – back home in Australia.

As mentioned before, Christine and I planned to visit Talbot House early in September and meet with members of Toc H in Poperinge. This we did, one lovely Belgian evening, in a very nice local restaurant with 5 members of the Poperinge group. They came to Talbot House to first meet and chat with us, then we walked out together to dine. Some hours later they walked us back to the Old House and we made our farewells.

It was a busy night of talking...questions, questions and more questions - a regular 'talkfest'. We have all enjoyed the experience of catching up when distant family members come together after a long absence. Lots of questions and lots of talking – it was just like that. The 'meeting' was a great occasion and we can recommend it to other Toc H members who visit Talbot House.

### Toc H in Belgium

As you may expect the members of the group in Poperinge are mainly focused on Talbot House. They help to maintain it in good physical state and to promote its iconic role in the Great War under the terms of the Wakefield Trust.

I sense, however, that the group is really getting interested in what later flowed from Talbot House – the Toc H Movement and the work of Tubby. While they are aware of what is happening in the UK, they are keen to learn what Toc H is doing in the wider world – in Australia, Africa and India. Further to this, one of the group suggested that Toc H Poperinge should consider becoming an 'international office' or 'postbox' for the Movement worldwide.

Another very interesting development relates, in a legal sense, to the status that Toc H has in Belgium. My understanding is that Toc H in Poperinge presently sits alongside, or in an oblique sense, under Toc H in the UK. Steps are now well underway to incorporate Toc H under Belgian law as an independent charitable organisation.

I am of the opinion that we should earnestly encourage and support Toc H in Belgium to follow along the path it has chosen. The members are very enthusiastic and, dare I say it, younger than me.

Finally I can tell you, while still 6 years away, members of the Toc H group in Poperinge are starting to think about December 2015 and how it can be celebrated. They recognise the occasion has international significance and may need some guidance about this. Maybe we should start thinking about the event too?

Yours in Toc H,  
Michael Thomas

## RECENT FUNDRAISERS

### QUIZ NIGHT:

Many thanks to all those who helped with the organisation of the Annual Toc H Quiz Night, held on 19th September. Especially we sincerely thank - our Quiz Masters, **Oliver Luckhurst-Smith** and **Michael Viecei**, our MC, **Michael Thomas**, and our scorer, **Darrell Hamlyn**, and 'front of house' **Christine Thomas** and **Trish Anderson**.

To all who made up tables and attended, a big 'thank you' - you helped us raise over \$1867.

We also appreciate the support of **Anthony Termanelli** from **Vision Media**, who produced our poster, and the following people and businesses who supported this event—**Paul and Eleanor from The Salon, Glen Osmond, Prince Albert Hotel, Thomas and Williams families, Sarah Wood, David & Lois Hall**.

### BADGE DAY:

It was a beautiful day on Friday, 18th September, when some kind volunteers sold badges in the city.

Proceeds were down (we raised just over \$592) due mainly to lack of volunteers—but we do appreciate the efforts of - **David Hall, Rae Glover, Doreen Hartley, Rosemary Woolman, Dorothy Ferrier, Peter Burford** and **Michael Thomas** and thank them for their time.

### CAN YOU HELP - JAM JARS?

As some of our volunteers are keen to start making preserves and jams, if you have any **500gm jars** (preferably with lids) could you please bring them in to the Toc H Centre, as soon as possible.



Alternately, please phone **Lois Hall** on 8370 2250.



### VALE—ELIZABETH EARDLEY January 1916—August, 2009

**Betty**, as most of us knew her, was a very loyal member of Toc H joining in 1942, first as a member of Central Branch, then a member of Hawthorn, and finally as a General member. She and her sister, **Marie Holthouse**, worked tirelessly for Toc H over many years. Betty was always willing to help in the Charity Card shop when Toc H was rostered for the day. She helped on Badge days and Saturday Markets, and many other Toc H activities, including taking on the role of Area Jobbie in the 1980's, and Secretary of Hawthorn Branch for 7 years.

Her health began to deteriorate and when a unit became available at Kirkholme, she moved very reluctantly as she loved her unit in Fisher Street. I visited her regularly and she was always very pleased to see a familiar face and share a cuppa. There was always knitting in the basket by her chair, as she was very keen on helping people by making squares for rugs for the disadvantaged. She was an avid reader and there were many books in her unit. Her great love was cats and I am a proud owner of two of her precious cats, which I treasure very much.

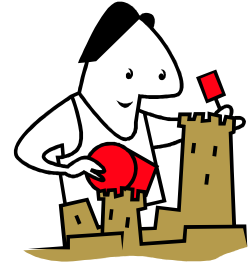
Betty's memory started to fail before her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday but that didn't stop her extended family from getting many of her past friends and work colleagues together for a special birthday party, which David and I were privileged to attend.

Betty was moved into the nursing home soon after her birthday and unfortunately was unable to recognise people for much of the last year of her life.

We give thanks to God for a wonderful person and a life well lived.

*Lois Hall.*

# Toc H Camping Program



**Toc H needs YOU!**

If you are a young person (over 16 years) or young at heart, and enjoy helping children, then you may like to be a leader at our camps run for children in need (aged 7 to 11 years).

Our next camp is being held at our campsite in Victor Harbor from  
**SUNDAY, 27th TO THURSDAY, 31st DECEMBER**

All leaders are trained and need a Police Clearance. If you are interested, or you know of someone who may be interested, or you would like more details, please phone Mary at the office as soon as possible.



Our camps focus on building the children's self-esteem and reinforcing positive behaviour in a fun environment. There are a variety of activities organised, and all the campers have a great time.



## CAMPSITE NEWS:

The Camp Board of Management is delighted that Employment Options has advised that through the Work for the Dole Scheme, there will be a third project undertaken at the campsite.

This Project will involve cladding the current tin dormitories (Bunkhouses 7 and 8) and reproofing them, which will vastly improve not just their presentation, but also ensure there are no leaky rooves.



### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:**

As advised in the previous issue of *Contact*, Toc H again has **shoe boxes** which can be filled with a choice of a number of different items which would bring a great deal of happiness to children in need. Do consider filling one of these boxes (or more if you wish) - its good fun to shop for articles which we know will be truly appreciated by the children who receive them. Samaritan's Purse (which organises this wonderful project each year) does request a donation of **\$8 per box**, to cover the cost of delivery to the various countries which will benefit from these donations.

**Why not buy**—*something to love, something for school* (in many countries, paper, pencils and books are in very short supply), *something to wear, something to play with?* Just contact Mary to organise for a box and brochure.

**VIETNAM STUDY ASSISTANCE:** If you would like to support children whose education is at risk, **sponsorship opportunities** are available for just \$25 (as per *Contact* July/August issue). Cheques can be sent in to the Toc H Centre, and should be made payable to Toc H Queensland who will issue a receipt to you. This is a valuable project which really improves the lives of these young people in Vietnam. Contact Mary for more details.

### **BRANCH AND AREA DATES**

#### **October**

Tuesday	6th	Victor Harbor—Annual General Meeting
Monday	12th	Prospect—Tea Night
Tuesday	20th	Burnside —Birthday Dinner
Monday	26th	Prospect —AGM & Planning

#### **November**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>Victor Harbor—Christmas Planning</b>
Monday	9th	Prospect—Tea Night
Tuesday	17th	Burnside—Meeting
Monday	23rd	Prospect—Guest speaker: Rev'd Peter Randle



*Remember the five simple rules to be happy:*

*Free your heart from hatred*

*Free your mind from worries*

*Live simply*

*Give more*

*Expect less*



### **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