

# THE LINK

## THE NATIONAL JOURNAL OF TOC H AUSTRALIA

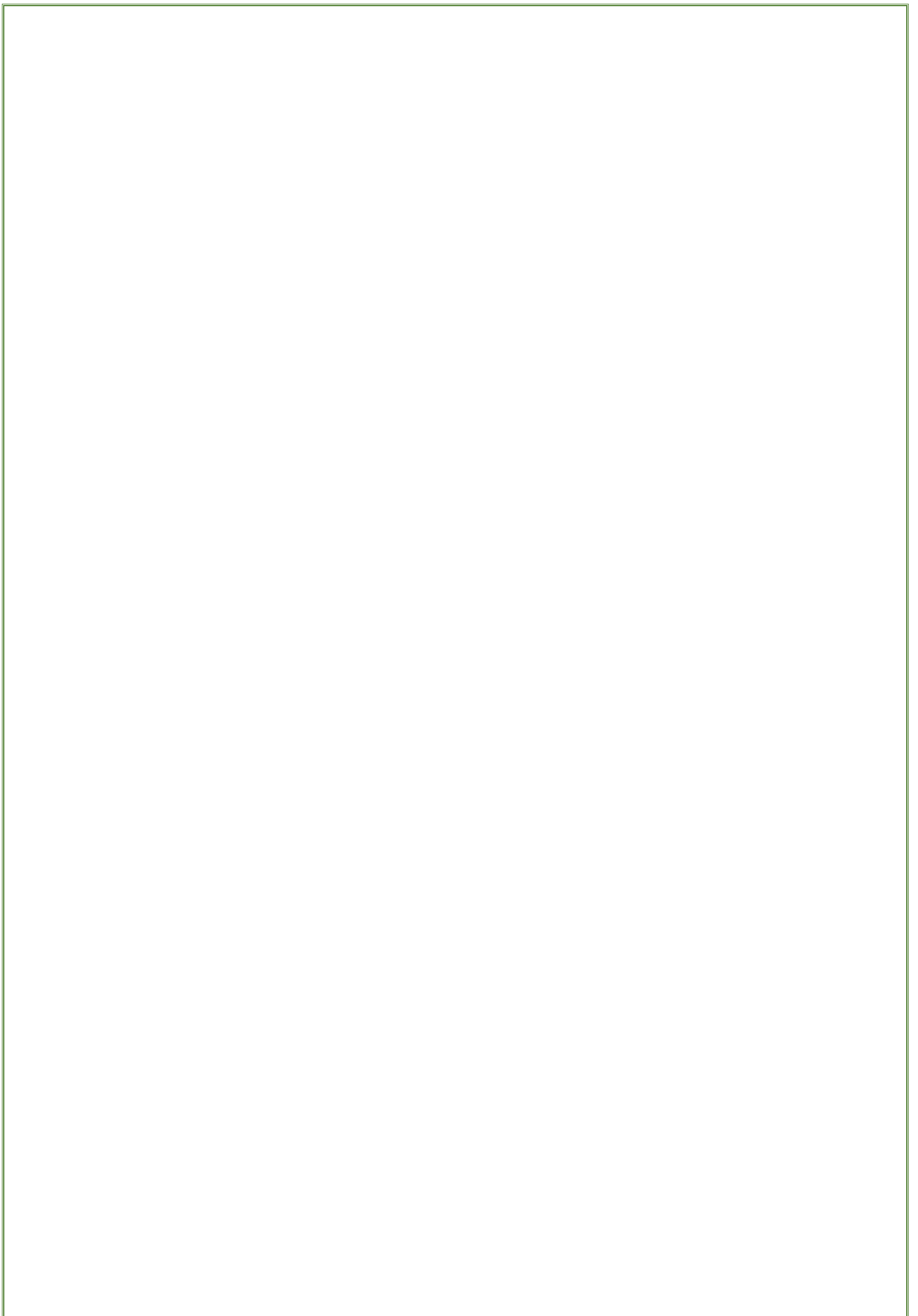
Issue No. 9

April 2023



Enjoying the beautiful Bribie Island beach after the Bird Watching

Tony Rigby, Lorraine Burns, Marjorie Voss, Lorelle Green,  
Aamir Cao and Nyssa Clacher



## Message from our National Director

I'm sure all of you are aware that we live in very challenging times. This results in many people needs that Toc H is well placed to address. But it also provides significant challenges for us as a movement. Many similar organisations have simply fell by the wayside, while others have adapted, grown stronger, and serve a valuable purpose in addressing the needs of those they aim to help.

Most of us are aware of the history of Toc H and the incredible work our Movement has done to help others. During my 20 years as a member, I have seen this include conducting youth leadership courses, social events, and concerts for the elderly and lonely, Ekka outings, camps and Christmas parties for children and families living with cancer, camps for disabled and disadvantaged children at risk and families with autism, collection of easter eggs for sick children, accommodation for the homeless and victims of domestic violence, and many, many more projects.

Very few organisations do such a diversity of activities for the simple purpose of 'people helping people' – it reflects the Toc H approach of 'where there is a need, we help where we can.' This is firmly based on our ethos and our strong Christian foundations – to seek the needy and help them; Mother Theresa taught that we can 'see Jesus in the eyes of the poor'. While the rest of the world gets on with its busy, time poor lifestyles of today, I would hope that Toc H members view the world in a different way, noticing the needy, listening to people's hurts, comforting, and encouraging and helping where we can.

This is not going to get easier – in fact it will get harder as needs increase, and requirements for organisations to meet ever increasing governance and other rules and expectations continue to grow. As a Movement, we have to adapt, to grow, and 'progress or perish', whilst still maintaining the core values of who we are, and what we do. This will require much thought, prayer and hard work. This process has begun, with a meeting at Coungeau House where members of Northern Region discussed how they would like Toc H to grow and what current and new projects we should focus on – see the article in this [Link](#).

I encourage all members of Toc H in Australia to continue doing the wonderful work you are doing, while also giving thought and prayer to how our Movement can grow in the new and challenging world we find ourselves in, so that we remain fresh, relevant and effective. Please pray for guidance for Toc H members in leadership roles. The Four Points of the Compass provide guidance to keep us 'on track'. I encourage you to also read Matthew 25:34-40 to help us all remember Jesus teachings on helping the needy, while Psalm 41 notes that 'Blessed is the one who considers the poor'.

And as always, I thank each and every one of you for the work you do, for your commitment, and for being part of the wonderful movement that is Toc H.

Yours in Toc H,

**Dr. Owen Nichols -- National Director, Toc H Australia**

## The Toc H Lamp and the Ceremony of Light.

The Toc H Lamps and the Ceremony of Light are most important in Toc H. The Lamps are full of symbolism.

The Lamp is called 'The Lamp of Maintenance', because, when it is lit it symbolizes the fact that the work of Toc H is being maintained. It is also significant that the lamp symbol is not just a lamp but a lighted lamp.

The lamp itself is cast in bronze and is not dissimilar to the lamps used by Christians in the catacombs of Rome in the first century A.D. The handle is in the form of a double barred cross – which is part of the arms of Ypres, Belgium, close to Poperinge where the first Talbot House was opened in World War 1, in 1915. Around the rim of the lamp are the words "In lumine tuo videbimus lumen" (In thy light shall we see light – Psalm 39:6) and the snuffer bears a monogram of Toc H.

The Women's Lamp is not so much used these days because nearly all units of Toc H are mixed. The Women's Lamp is a little smaller and is known as The Lamp of the Magnificat. The Christos monogram forms the handle. A dove on the lid and a ram's head at the base of the cross signify the Holy Spirit and sacrifice respectively.

The Rushlight is used before a Toc H Group qualifies to have a Lamp – basically it is a candle holder with the double barred cross of Lorraine behind. This creates a very effective shadow when the Rushlight is placed close to a wall.

So that is the 'hardware'.



The Toc H Lamp is used mainly for the Ceremony of Light, which is held nearly every time a Toc H Branch or Group meets and also at a new members' initiation or commitment ceremony.

When a Branch has its own meeting place or 'den' the lamp can be mounted on a shelf, perhaps 1.5 meters above floor level – where it could be seen by all present.

The Ceremony of Light is a 'mini' service of remembrance and rededication. It was first used in 1922. The original form of the Ceremony of Light was used until the early 1980's and is based on Lawrence Binyon's "Ode to the Fallen".

The later form of the Ceremony of Light uses a version of the Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester. There are occasions, such as the funeral of a Toc H member when the two versions may be used together – the first part of each ceremony with the common conclusion at the end.

The lighting in the room is extinguished and the lamp is lit with the word “Light”. Focusing on the flame, the words of the ceremony can invoke many things to us as a group and as individuals. Many members use the period of silence as a time of rededication or to remember people whose lives have given us an example to follow. The room lights are turned on before the lamp is extinguished to symbolize the movement from a small light to a greater one.

There are a occasions when “Grand Light” can be held, when several branches or units are meeting together, and each has its lamp – held by a member and all lamps are lit at the same time.

This might be at a World Chain of Light gathering.

The World Chain of Light was an initiative of Toc H in Western Australia. It was first held in 1927. It is a celebration of Toc H worldwide. It is held on 11-12 December each year. 11<sup>th</sup> December was the date when Talbot House opened for the first time in 1915 and 12<sup>th</sup> December is Tubby Clayton’s birthday.

The host country starts the ‘chain’ at 9pm on 11<sup>th</sup> December and maintains its lamp alight for 24 hours. Other countries light their lamps for the Ceremony of Light at 9pm local time, so that a chain of light goes westward to encircle the globe.

### *The Ceremony of Light, original version*

*The room lights are turned off and the lamp is lit*

Leader:        “*Light*”

*(Let us give thanks for the life of .....)*

Leader:        “*With proud thanksgiving let us remember our elder brethren.*

*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning*

*We will remember them.”*

Response:     “*We will remember them.”*

*A period of silence – up to a minute – follows when we remember not only those who gave their lives for their country, but those who have served their fellows.*

Leader:        “*Let your light so shine before all people that they may see your good works,”*

Response:     “*And glorify our Father which is in heaven.”*

*The room lights are turned on and the lamp extinguished.*

## *The Ceremony of Light*

*The room lights are turned off and the lamp lit.*

Leader:        *“Light”*  
*(We give thanks for the life of .....*)

Leader:        *“We are called to be instruments of God's will,  
Where there is hatred, let us bring love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is sadness, joy;  
And where there is darkness, let us bring light.”*

*(A period of silence – up to a minute – follows when we remember those who have gone before, who have given us an example to follow.*

Leader:        *“Let your light so shine before all people that they  
may see your good works.”*

Response:      *“And glorify our Father which is in heaven.”*

*The room lights are switched on and the lamp extinguished.*

David Hall, National Secretary



**Toc H Gathering:** On Saturday, 4th and Sunday, 5th February twelve Toc H members from Brisbane, Bribie Island and General Members Branches gathered at Coungeau House on Bribie Island to take part in a range of activities designed simply at getting to know each other. This was the first activity organised by Toc H Australia Northern Region for 2023.

The programme for the weekend was carefully organised, and was very much in line with the Four Points of the Compass, the Aims and Objectives of the Toc H Movement:

- a. Friendship, Fellowship
- b. Everyone was involved.
- c. Everyone's ideas were respected.
- d. The tone of the whole event was one of witnessing humbly.

The programme included:

- Barbecue lunch on Saturday.
- A 'getting to know you' session. Groups of three were formed, and each group appointed its spokesperson. Each person then told his or her story, after some fifteen minutes everyone then assembled in the hall under Coungeau House, and each spokesperson then related to everyone the story of those in his or her group. This was very entertaining.
- A Bird-watching walk along the foreshore. This was led by Owen and Flora Nichols and was enjoyed by everyone.
- On Saturday evening, there was presentation from Jo (Brisbane branch) high lightening her work with the aboriginal young people in the Youth Justice System near Darby on the Darling Downs. There was a documentary viewed entitled "Tubby Clayton an Impression" reflecting the kind of person he was and the still very contemporary message of humanity he stood for. Also, Nyssa Clacher (Brisbane branch) spoke about her involvement with the army cadets, instilling in them the values of the Toc H movement.
- On the Sunday morning some attended the 7.30am Service at the local Parish Church - St Peter's, and one of the Bribie Island Toc H members, Marjorie Voss, organised a fun activity.
- After morning tea Liz Elks and her friend, Simone Hayden gave a power point presentation on a project which they are working on, Nana's Nest. The focus of this project is on homeless girls and women in the Sunshine Coast., and there is a possibility that Toc H Australia could be involved in this very worthwhile project in the future.



- The weekend concluded with a discussion on future directions for Toc H in the Northern Region. A summary of this session is in the report submitted by Flora Nichols in this edition of The Link.

Feedback on this gathering has been excellent and there is agreement that it should be repeated in 2024.

Ray Geise

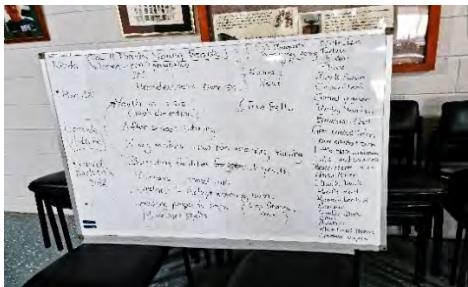
A few snapshots of our weekend activities and getting to know each other.



Ray & Tony chatting with Simone & Liz from Nana's Nest



"True Fella" presentation by Jo Nott



Round up the weekend



Nana's Nest presentation



Brisbane branch Flora, Owen, Laura, Nyssa and Chris from Bribie branch



Marjorie Voss (Bribie branch) hosting a play. "What's under the Mushroom".



## What's Under the Mushroom?

One day there was an ANT caught in the rain and wondering where she could shelter. She saw a small mushroom and crawled under it.

The rain continued.... and along came a wet BUTTERFLY.

"Please let me in I'm so wet" .....The ANT complained that there was only room for her but moved a little and the BUTTERFLY fitted.

Then along came a MOUSE. "Please let me in I am so wet".

"There is no more room" said the ANT & BUTTERFLY, but they wriggled a little and the MOUSE squeezed in.

Next came a BIRD which could not fly because HE was so wet. "Please may I come in HE said. The ANT, BUTTERFLY and MOUSE all replied, "There is no more room". However, with a little effort, discussion, and adjustment the BIRD was helped in.

The rain continued to pour down and along ran a VERY, VERY scared RABBIT. "Please help me, there is a FOX chasing me and I need to hide."

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED???

All those under the mushroom immediately squeezed up and hid the RABBIT just as the FOX arrived. "Have you seen a RABBIT"? he asked. they all said "NO" and the FOX ran away.

By now the rain was over and the ANT looked at all those under the mushroom and said, "how can this be, in the beginning there was only room for me and now we are all under the mushroom safe and sound?".

then they heard a fat green frog say, "don't you know what happens to a mushroom when it rains?"

They all looked at one another and then at the mushroom and suddenly they knew why there was room enough under the mushroom for them all.

"It grows"

You may be wondering why I've told this story, but really it relates to every one-off us.

The humble mushroom offered shelter to one ANT.

This appeared to be all it could do, but GOD had different ideas and creatures of many varieties were helped.

This is all to do about how it is to help each other.

**We thank you Marjorie Voss (Bribie Island member) for this story and the narration at our Gathering.**

## Brisbane Branch

On the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> February, a group of Toc H members met at Coungeau House on Bribie Island to discuss potential future directions for our organization. During the weekend, some members shared about their voluntary work with other organizations. As leader of a cadet unit, Nyssa (Brisbane Branch) mentors young people encouraging them in the Toc H spirit. Jo (Brisbane Branch) showed us a video she had made so we could see how young people who had been in the youth justice system were being mentored by Christian leaders and indigenous elders at a rural property in a program called "True Fella". She is very involved in assisting in this work. Liz Elks (past General Member) is organizer of a wonderful new initiative called "Nanna's Nest" to help homeless women over 55 and young women with unplanned pregnancies or escaping domestic violence by providing temporary accommodation and support on the Sunshine Coast.

Tubby Clayton once remarked that it was more important to him to get Toc H into people rather than to get people into Toc H and it was obvious that each of these women has the Toc H spirit and is shining the light of Christ into the lives of others, some of whom are in dark places.

Owen and Flora (Brisbane Branch) are organizers and teachers of a Church ministry which also operates in the Toc H spirit. They run a free English class for migrants, refugees and international students who want to improve their English. In the Toc H website, it says "Above all (Talbot House) was a place in which everyone was welcome, in which there was much fun and laughter and in which real and lasting friendships were formed." This is very true of "English Corner". Many students these days are retired people who have come to Australia to live with their son or daughter and help care for their grandchildren. Often, they arrive with very limited English and, while their children are at work and the grandchildren at school, they can feel very alone and isolated. English Corner becomes an important social outing where they make friends with others in a similar situation and often arrange to meet for coffee with each other. During the pandemic, some moved back to their home countries, but thanks to WhatsApp, English classes were continued, and friendships maintained. Like Toc H, English Corner breaks down barriers between people, so last year an advanced student from Russia helped a beginner Ukrainian refugee to learn English because they both spoke Russian. Students are invited to also attend a free Saturday morning English class at a local church and, as a result, some students have started to attend the church. At present most students are from China, Iran and Colombia. If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer teaching free English classes in your local area, you can find out how to do a Certificate IV in TESOL at <https://www.itateach.com>

**Flora Nichols – Brisbane Branch member**

## Upcoming events for 2023 from Brisbane branch

Prior to Anzac Day 2022, Toc H invited the Scenic Rim Regional Cadets to march with them and carry the flags and banners during the Anzac Parade in Brisbane City. This came about as the Secretary Toc H Brisbane Branch also being a Senior Instructor of the Cadets.

WO2 Nyssa Clacher, being her industrious self, planned and supervised a small contingent of Scenic Rim Regional Cadets including ROC's (7-10 year olds) recruits and cadets (11-18 year olds) to travel from Tamborine to Brisbane for the event and some Toc H volunteers helping out in our supper kitchen of a Monday night.

Since this first collaboration there has been some quiet conversation in the background as to how these two volunteer community groups could benefit from each other in the future. Both organizations have deep roots in military history and a service to the community ethos.

Scenic Rim Regional Cadets Staff Instructors and Cadets hope to foster and grow a lasting and meaningful relationship with Toc H as time goes by.

Eight volunteers from Toc H Brisbane Branch have been busy sorting out its part in the upcoming Camp Crystal with Childhood Cancer Support that is being held on the 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. Branch members will be in charge of the craft, woodwork, jumping castle, fairy floss and popcorn for this upcoming camp on Mt Tamborine.

Brisbane Branch is getting ready for Anzac Day Midnight Service and the Main Anzac Parade in Brisbane.

### Nyssa Clacher – Brisbane Branch



Scenic Rim Cadets

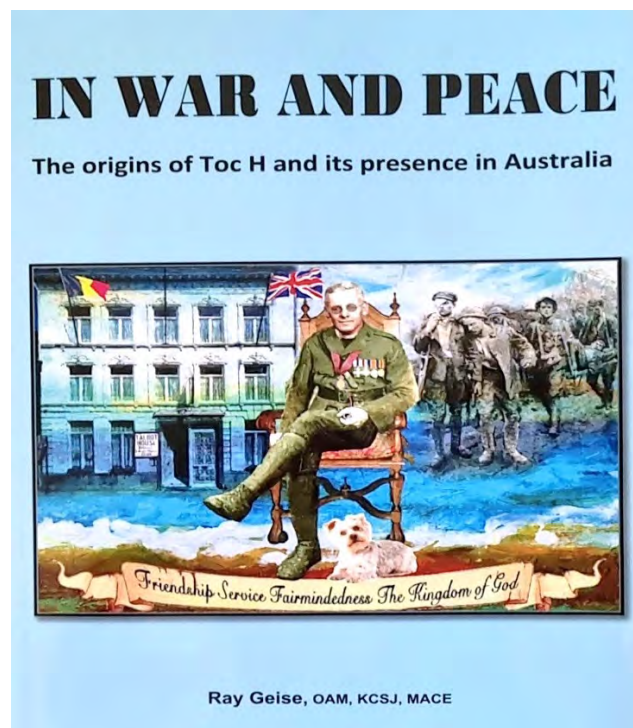
**IN WAR AND PEACE** - This is the title of a new book on the Story of the Origins of the Toc H movement and its presence in Australia since 1925. There are several things about this story which should be of interest to many people:

\* There are many descriptions of projects which have been undertaken by Toc H members, such as the Ekka Outing, the Junior Farmer's Movement, the Blood Transfusion Service, Youth Leadership Courses, Youth Forums, The Bush Children's Health Scheme, Camping programs for children with disabilities, as well as smaller projects like visiting people in aged care homes, cutting firewood for elderly people, arranging concerts in old people's homes, or just simply taking the time to be available to chat with someone who is lonely.

Throughout the book are many profiles of people from all walks of life who have made significant contributions, not only to the Toc H Movement, but also to their communities. These make interesting reading.

There are many photos throughout the book which support what has been written. They help us to understand that Toc H is about 'doing something - putting words into action.

Copies of the book may be purchased by emailing [tochaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:tochaustralia@gmail.com) and placing an order. An invoice will be issued with bank details for a direct deposit. Cost is \$40 plus \$10 postage and handling. Local pickup is available from Toc H Bribie Island or Ray Geise in Brisbane or limited supply from David Hall in Adelaide.



Front cover of the "In War and Peace" book by Ray Geise

## The World Chain of Light - 2022

If there is one thing, I have noticed over more recent years it is the saying - 'The family that prays together stays together - is rarely, if ever, mentioned, or practised in our everyday lives. As I look back on my childhood years and my first contact with the Toc H Movement, these words meant a lot to many people, and it was probably why so many of the families in the bush were so stable and so ready to help each other through difficult times. It is also most probable that because all Toc H groups and Branches had a Chaplain, they were able to reach out as a team to simply help each other and those around them.

The World Chain of Light has played an important role in keeping the Toc H family together, inspiring all of its members to live together in love and joy and peace [Toc H Prayer] since 1929. In 2022 it started in South Africa and was observed in Zimbabwe, England, Belgium, India and in Australia (in Adelaide and Bribie Island). In each of these places over twenty Toc H members attended both the Service and a meal.

**Ray Geise**

## St Margaret's Anglican Girls School Toc H Branch -

Toc H has been in operation at St Margaret's since 1996 and continues to attract a number of students each year, who join with the shared goal of being of service to others. 2023 Toc H Captains, Molly Baldwin and Alessandra Walker are proud to be the selected leaders of this group and have held membership for several years. Molly was first drawn to the group's philosophy as she states that she 'wanted to participate in more community service activities but didn't know where to start', but after being a member for several years, she wanted to lead the group to 'see Toc H grow and expand'.



Some of the activities Molly and Alessandra have planned for the year ahead include attending the Midnight Anzac Service at the Shrine of Remembrance as well as the day at the Ekka. These are two of the Toc H traditions in which St Margaret's has been participating for many years and are eagerly anticipated by all participants.



A collection of Easter treats, and non-perishable grocery items have also been collected by the group through the end of Term 1. These generous donations will be distributed to Anglican parishes to make this time of year easier for families who are struggling.

Alessandra is able to use her experience from years of participation in Guides, as well as being a regular volunteer at established Charity 'Dig In' to inspire younger students, 'We hope that in the future, Toc H will be able to constantly offer small and large volunteering opportunities to anyone that is interested.' Both Molly and Alessandra's leadership is a strong example to younger students and will pave the way for St Margaret's participation in Toc H for years to come.

**Katie Flanagan – the Co-ordinator of the St Margaret's Toc H Action Group.**

## Talbot House

We in Australia keep in touch with Talbot House in Poperinge, it is good to know that at the end of 2022 they observed Remembrance Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November and Toc H World Chain of Light on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022, as well as many other functions which are well supported by groups of people from around the world. It is important that we maintain this connection with Talbot House.



This is the alter in the Upper Room which is actually a Carpenter's Bench

## News from Toc H South Australia

A little over a year ago Toc H South Australia Pty Ltd was navigating its way through the Education Department's policy-enforced restrictions on school camps in response to COVID-19. At our Victor Harbor site, we continued to maintain, improve and repair our grounds and buildings as we pondered *When will our campers return.*

One year on and we are seeing the effects that camp-restricted life had on people: schools and community groups are craving the serenity and unity of camp life after such a lengthy period of isolation. It is wonderful to see our grounds bursting with activity and laughter again.

Our site has become a mental health and wellbeing paradise for so many. The absence of camp-life togetherness has generated a hunger for open spaces and slow-down time. Younger school children zoom around our site with a fresh sense of freedom and energy whilst older students relax into our magnificent views of the Fleurieu coastline as they shake out the isolation blues of the times recently passed.

Our site has become a rejuvenating haven for school and community groups and thus, we have moved with these sentiments and re-focussed and modernised what our grounds mean to so many. One of our residential buildings has long taken the name *Cooinda*, an Indigenous word meaning *Happy Place* and we have embraced this word, its meaning, and its history. It is therefore with little surprise that our site has reinvented itself post-pandemic and is now known as *Cooinda Retreats, Nature's Happy Place*. Nothing could be more fitting and appropriate.

We look forward to some winter quietness as we attend to our never-ending, site maintenance needs and time in which to work on the programs that define our organisation: predominantly, our GLOW Kids Camp and our Camp 38 Families with Autism Camp. Our programs celebrate and nurture the essence and guiding principles of the Toc H ethos and we walk into our future with a strength and determination to grow our programs that are so important for our community.



**Rebecca Butler**  
Executive Director

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opencamps.org.au

NATURE'S  
HAPPY  
PLACE







Photos of Corinda Retreat



## Sisters of the Sacred Advent:

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Ray visited the Sisters of the Sacred Advent, Sister Gillian and Sister Sandra at Symes Grove. It is important to maintain this link with the Sisters and St Margaret's Anglican Girls School Toc H group. It was a great success and Ray would like to thank Norma Tucker – Administration Assistant - St Margarets Anglican Girls School for arranging this lovely meeting.



Sister Gillian and Sister Sandra

## News from The General Members Branch - Queensland

**Bunnings BBQ 2022** was very successful, we have another planned in October 2023 - this enables our small branch to continue to fund our Bursary recipients, Christmas puddings, Concerts for Aged Care, plus our insurance and other expenses for the year.

### **Aged Care – Concerts for 2023**

Very excited to advise that we have secured dates April and December at The John Wesley Gardens Aged Care Community. Symes Grove/St Martin's Residential Aged Care still a work in progress. We will keep you posted.

We have a few photos that we can share when the puddings were donated to The John Wesley Aged Care and Symes Grove Aged Care communities for Christmas 2022. Ray and I were lucky enough to be invited to market day at the end of the year and pick up some goodies.

Kristen from The John Wesley advised us that the puddings were well received by the residents, they were given out at Happy hour and the Christmas Bus trips and very much appreciated.



Ray, Kristen (coordinator),  
John Wesley Resident and Lorraine



Market Day at The John Wesley Aged Care



Ray and Louise (coordinator – Symes Grove Aged Care)



## Visiting Aged Care residents at St Martin's Residential Aged Care – Taigum

Part of our programme is Adopting a Nursing Home, recently I signed up to be a weekly volunteer with Anglicare St Martin's Residential Aged Care, going in to chat to a few residents, I get so much joy and pleasure from doing this and hope that they too get something from my visits. Edna Maddox and her son Ian have been and still are great supporters of Toc H. Ray and I caught up with Edna at Christmas time.

### Lorraine Burns



Edna and Lorraine



Ray and Edna

### Sydney Members:



Two of the "In War and Peace" Books were forwarded on to Mark Greenacre, who will be presenting them to two schools – The Shore and Wenona whose cadets support Toc H in the Anzac Day Parade in Sydney.

## Coungeau House News – Bribie Island

### New Caretakers

After a long and somewhat exhausting process new caretakers were appointed for Paul and Sarndra Raybould arrived from Cairns in December to take up the position.



Both Paul and Sarndra have had extensive experience having been relief managers for a significant number of motels, been the licensee of a hotel in north Queensland and worked in hotels, restaurants and bars in New Zealand.

The Toc H members who, over the past 5 years, have carried the responsibility of development and maintenance of the Coungeau House facility look forward to working closely with Sarndra and Paul.

### Coungeau House projects.



We are anxiously awaiting the construction of a new 5mx5m shed to replace the rusted carport which has served well as a storage area for building materials as well as a workspace during much of the previous work carried out. Caretaker Paul took on the

task of sorting the material, dismantling the old structure and preparing the site. The groundwork was more extensive than initially thought and uncovered more of the history of this grand old facility. It is believed the clearing revealed the site where a windmill once stood with sections of the steel support and concrete bases adding significantly to the complexity of the task.

Thanks to the successful grant applications submitted on behalf of Toc H by Lorelle Green, it has been possible to carry out more significant and essential upgrades. New ambulant toilets have been installed replacing the old cisterns which were requiring regular maintenance. To improve the access to water, the entire complex has been re-plumbed replacing the old and, in some cases, original pipes. At the same time the hot water system was converted from electric to gas, ensuring a supply only when needed and reducing electricity costs. Currently Lorelle is working with suppliers to upgrade the security throughout the entire complex.



## Toc H Bribie Island Branch

### World Chain of Light



Bribie Members and Guests gathered in the hall of Coungeau House at 5.00pm on Monday 12 December 2022 to celebrate the World Chain of Light.

The service which originated from South

Africa was lead by Fr Steven Schwarzrock. The theme for the service was “Building Bravely” encouraging all Toc H branches to “once again live dangerously, take risks and be mobile. Tackle the difficult tasks, find projects that we can build and pass on, leave a legacy once more. Be pioneers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”. We were thankful that we were joined by Ray Geise who performed the “Ceremony of Light”.



The service was followed with fellowship where all enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner prepared by the Toc H members. This was relaxing time which was great to share with the invited guests who are very strong supporters of Toc H.

## Toc H Gathering.... Something different!

The weather was kind, and the company was great as we set off from Coungeau House to walk to Buckley's Hole , a bird conservation area bordering on beach at the entrance to Pumicestone Passage. The short walk took us through the Vietnam Veterans Park past the memorial wall.



The bird hide on the edge of the water was the perfect place to spot and identify the wide range of birds sheltering there. Binoculars and cameras were used to help the untrained spotter to locate some of the 22 different bird species located by the more experienced members of the group.

Owen and Flora shared their enthusiasm and

knowledge with the group with a detailed list of birds spotted being kept. There was of course the Australian pelican, the White-faced Heron and the Black Swan but it was the identifying of others such as the Welcome Swallow, the Eurasian Coot and the Caspian Tern that left the inexperienced of the group totally amazed.



The tide was low when it was time to

return to Coungeau Houses so the decision was made to walk along the beach. This provided yet another opportunity for members to chat and get to know one another better. A wonderfully informative and relaxing activity.





## **“100 CLUB”**

As Toc H Queensland is a registered charity with the single mission of providing community services through a variety of projects. Toc H Coungeau House project aims to provide low cost accommodation for those experiencing difficulties or are in some way disadvantaged.

### **AN INVITATION**

To assist in our goal of providing low cost accommodation, we have established the  
“100 Club”

This invitation is extended to families, individuals, organisations and businesses.

Toc H members and friends are encouraged to support this worthwhile initiative.

Your taxable deductible donation of \$100 would ensure that this goal could be achieved and can be used to sponsor use of the facility by those who, because of their circumstances, would benefit from this service.

Those who might be interested in joining the “100 Club” should contact Chris Clark by emailing [coungeauhouse@gmail.com](mailto:coungeauhouse@gmail.com) phone 0408 157 788 or

By direct deposit

Name: Coungeau House Management Committee

Bank: CBA

BSB: 064 164

Account: 0090 3394

Reference: (your name)



The Link - The Journal of TOC H Australia

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