

July 2004



# Theosophical Order of Service

NEWSLETTER

Auckland Group



**G**reetings friends and welcome to our 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter for 2004. We have certainly had a busy year with lots of activity occurring on the fund raising front. We have been gathering funds from various sources in the first few months of the year and now have got around to distributing them to our worthwhile causes, including India, Pakistan and the Philippines. Details are included in this newsletter.

The international TOS publication for 2003/2004 has just been circulated with some interesting articles covering the Philippines and animal welfare in India. If you would like to be included on the mailing list for this magazine or would like a copy of this issue then please contact us. If you already have a copy of this publication could you please pass it around to others who may not know of the TOS activities so they can learn more.

## Gardeners Galore!

Many thanks to all those who came to help in the HPB Lodge garden clean-up bonanza. It was a great turn out and proved true the expression, 'many hands make light work.'

Saturday the 27th of March was a beautiful, mild, Autumn day, ideal for gardening. Everyone brought some tools along, including the children, and got stuck in under the guidance of Alistair. The two main areas worked on were the garden bank next to the dining room and the pathway leading down from Headquarters. The garden bank was overgrown with the notorious 'Nut-grass' weed which is very invasive and takes some effort to remove once it becomes established. Those who were not in the garden provided much appreciated cold drinks and at the end of it all a great vegetarian spread for lunch.

This was a great opportunity to give practical help in our own back yard (so to speak), get to know others and have an enjoyable time doing it.



## Busy in the garden!

Some of the garden helpers working together at the HPB Lodge.

## Sponsor a child

We have had a number of enquiries about sponsoring a child in Pakistan and India. This issue has got our members so fired up that we have put funds forward to sponsor a child in Pakistan through Vickie Jerome's programme.



Please get in behind this great work and sponsor a child yourself or collectively between you and a few friends to make a difference to an individual's life. Please contact us or Vickie Jermone on (03) 304 5100 or email: [vjermone@clear.net.nz](mailto:vjermone@clear.net.nz)

## Contact Details

If you want to find out more please contact Richard or Renee Sell (09) 528 7373 or visit our Web Site at:

[www/theosophy.org.nz/tos/](http://www.theosophy.org.nz/tos/)

**"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it."**  
*Margaret Fuller*

# The Golden Link School - Philippines

In our last newsletter we mentioned that we had an exciting new project coming up and we are very pleased to announce our participation in the Golden Link School scholarship program which originally commenced in June 2002.

This programme run by that truly selfless worker Vic Hao Chin and the TOS team in Manila provides tuition for more than 200 children, most of which need financial assistance to attend. Its vision is based on the belief that individuals must discover the core values of their lives for themselves free from fear, coercion and prejudice. Through innovative teaching methods that respect and nurture the individual and creativity of its students, it integrates the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects of their growth in a well rounded educational programme.

We have provided sponsorship for three to four children from poor backgrounds to assist them with obtaining a proper education, taught with a Theosophical spirit. You could sponsor a child for US \$200 per year.

## Our Amazing 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Book Table

Most of you will have seen our table of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand books at the back of the room at HPB. This has been an amazing success in raising funds and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed second hand books to keep the supply going. A special big thanks to Val White who has been overseeing this table and rustling up books wherever she can.



If you have any books you would like to donate, please send them into HPB c/- of Val or Renee or contact us and we may be able to pick them up from your place if you are in the Auckland area.

*When I get a little money I buy books; and if any is left, I buy food and clothes. - Desiderius Erasmus*

## Bhubaneswar

Contact is ongoing with our sister TOS group in Bhubaneswar with our funds being gratefully used in their projects.

With communications between northern India and New Zealand being a relatively slow process we are waiting on their response before another donation is sent.

We have heard that a TOS group in Australia are also now supporting Bhubaneswar; it is heartening to see the ANZAC spirit alive and well.

## \*\*\* The Bon Children of Northern India \*\*\*

Earlier this year the Orewa Lodge had a very interesting visitor from northern India. Chongtul Rinpoche from the *Bon Children's Welfare Centre* spoke on the Bon religion in Tibet and the charitable trust set up to look after poor village children along the boarder of Tibet, Nepal and India. Their main purpose is to provide food, clothing, shelter and modern education. They offer over 200 hundred children an environment that is respectful of their unique Bon culture and religious heritage.

Like all other children they are in need of basic necessities such as soap, shampoo, medicine and school materials. A child can be sponsored for \$25 per month or \$300 per year and the trust is a non-profit institution registered under the Indian Society Act.

In response to Chinpoche' plea for support we have decided to make a one off donation to this cause for one year at \$300. We hope that it will be successful and the benefits realized. If you are interested in similar support please call us, today is better than tomorrow!

## How Can I Help ?

*( make a one-off donation or even a regular bank direct debit payment?)*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Details: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheques payable to:**

**Theosophical Order of Service – Auckland**  
Richard & Renee Sell  
C/- The Theosophical Society –HPB Lodge  
4 Warborough Ave, Epsom, Auckland