

March 2004



Theosophical Order of Service

NEWSLETTER

Auckland Group

Thank you Supporters !

We want to say a BIG thank you to all the supporters and contributors around New Zealand who have given so generously of their time and money to support a sister TOS group in India.

The International Secretary of the TOS, Diana Dunningham Chapotin, is thrilled with our first effort and link with Bhubaneswar and said "this is real brotherhood in action".

Diana goes on to say "I can't tell you how delighted I am to hear of the TOS group that has sprung up. You seem to have got off to a roaring start with your fundraising stall at Convention in January.

It is good to know that you see TOS activities in Auckland as supporting and enriching the HPB Lodge programme rather than as a

separate field of endeavour. It is important that you explain to all at the Lodge that TOS work is intended to add a dimension to Lodge life and to inspire loyalty to it, rather than to draw workers away, as some people occasionally mistakenly believe. Actually the TOS can draw new people in who are especially attracted to Theosophy made practical.

Good luck. I wish you joy and a lot of fun, along with the hard work. I think you'll be amazed to discover the diversity and dynamism of TOS work within Lodges around the world. I look forward to seeing some of you on Saturday March 20, to tell you the latest news and to hear your own ideas."

Thanks to Diana for all her assistance and kind words. We have an exciting new

project coming up soon and we will let you know when we have a few more details lined up.

Convention 2004

The TOS attended Convention 2004 at Orewa and it was a huge success. We raised a lot of funds through our stall selling books, food, artwork, raffle and lucky dip. A talk was also given on TOS activities both around the globe and in New Zealand.

We had a lot of interest in our stall and TOS activities with quite a few people wishing to be involved or just kept up-to-date with what is happening.

We would like to extend a special thank you to all those wonderful workers who helped out and for the fantastic offers of time and items to sell for this event.

TOS International Update at HPB Lodge

**Saturday 20th March
2 p.m.**

For members and friends of the TOS, this is a rare opportunity to hear from Diana Dunningham Chapotin, based in Paris, on what is happening in various parts of the world.

This informal gathering is your chance to get an up-

date on areas of interest or concern and ask any questions that you have.

Join us for a cuppa and general discussion afterwards. If you have any queries please give us a call on (09) 528 7373.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Join Diana at HPB 20 March



Our own Backyard

Support begins at home and what better way to contribute to our own HPB Lodge than to get stuck in and help in a practical way and get closer to nature at the same time.

On **Saturday 27th March** please join us between 10.30 a.m. —12.30 p.m. at HPB to help weed and beautify the gardens. Alistair would gratefully accept any help we can provide, so let's make our grounds as beautiful as we can. Bring along your forks, spades and garden gloves.

We would love to see you there and there will be a cuppa tea and biscuits afterwards. It's another chance to catch up with old and new friends alike. Please put this date in your diary.

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/

Hello Bhubaneswar - Update

We have raised more than \$1800 so far towards this cause. What an amazing result.

In February we wrote to Khageswar Routray, the regional secretary of the TOS in Orissa state and our contact in Bhubaneswar. We introduced our group and spoke of our desire to help. We also enquired as to what future activities they were planning and how New Zealand could contribute.

We are very pleased also to advise that our first overseas donation was transferred to Bhubaneswar in February and we will let you know some of the uses it was put to specifically in our next newsletter.

Some of the types of activities the TOS in Bhubaneswar engages in are:

- Adult Literacy Classes.
- A tutorial programme for failed students.
- The Organisation of Health camps on 1st October, 17th November, 17th February, and 8th May each year to distribute free medicines to children. Instruction and information are imparted as a preventive measure.
- Dahl is given to leper patients at a Leprosy Asylum.
- Contributions to buy a bed at the "Home of Compassion" in Cuttack, and also donations to the "Sisters of Charity of Mother Teresa" at Bhubaneswar.
- Distribution of books, pens and pencils to the students of a tribal school at Bardal and also exercise books & pens to 70 students at the Anatha Ashram Primary School.
- Animal welfare work, (free treatment to sick cattle in a slum dweller district).
- Some of the TOS workers provide free legal advice to the poor and needy.
- Wheelchair purchased and donated to the Area Hospital Baramba in Cuttack district.

Mr. Routray advised us that they have many other projects currently on hold due to lack of funds, from tree planting to animal welfare to education etc.

We eagerly await more news to share with you from Bhubaneswar so please keep an eye on our website.

Bookmarks for Sale

The TOS has a large collection of wonderful laminated bookmarks available for purchase, with spiritual quotations on them. The recommended retail price is \$2.50 but we will sell them to any Lodge for \$2.00 and your Lodge can make 50c on each one. Any individual sales welcome.

If you would like to see some samples then please checkout the TOS website at www.theosophy.org.nz/tos/

"Offer fabulous bookmarks at your Lodge"

Sponsor a Child

If you have been thinking of sponsoring a child's education then there's no time like the present. In Pakistan you can make such a difference to someone's life for NZD150 (approx.) per year. All Pakistan sponsorships are arranged through the Hon. Sec. of the TOS in Karachi, Fareeda Amir.

Please make your cheque out to the "Theosophical Society in NZ Inc." and send to the TS National Treasurer, Graham Eden at Headquarters, 18 Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland, who will arrange the money transfers. Why not have your branch sponsor a child collectively which would make it easier.

For further information please contact Vicki Jerome on (03) 304 5100 or by email: vjerome@clear.net.nz

Those who would understand the Plains must ascend the Eternal Hills, where their eyes scan infinity. But those who would make use of understanding must descend on to the Plains, where Past and Future meet and human beings have need of them.
From the Book of Sayings of Tsiang Samdup



Akasha Books

The Auckland TOS Group would like to thank Akasha Books for their kind donation given at the Convention.

This is a good place to mention that all donations and sales revenue are used exclusively towards our causes, none of it is used in administration costs.

How Can I Help ?

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Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Contact Details:

Please make cheques payable to:

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