

**The Theosophical Society in Australia**  
**SUNSHINE COAST LODGE**  
**Presidents Annual Report**  
**1 September 2015 - 31 August 2016**

Following is an outline of some basic key performance indicators, key activities and functions of our Lodge.

This report will be followed by a letter mid December.

Thank you to each and every one of you, especially to those of you who have worked so hard and given so much of yourselves to support and nurture our Lodge, its members and visitors. Together we are our Lodge and what we do, say, think and live shapes the form.

Shine brightly ☺

I wish for you a wonderful magical Christmas and New Year.

Love

And a heartfelt thank you for the wonderful opportunity to serve on the 2016 Sunshine Coast Lodge Committee.

Janet Blake

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No. OF MEMBERS ON 31 AUGUST 2016: 48

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MEETINGS OR LECTURES

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**Public meetings**

**Thursdays 7-9pm**

Buderim – average - 25 attendees / 12 members –< highest attendance 38 / lowest 11

**Fridays 7-9pm**

Noosa - average -attendees 9 /7 members - <highest attendance 19 / lowest 6

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**STUDY / DISCUSSION GROUPS**

**Thursdays and Fridays before public meetings.**

Myths of our Lives - average attendance 6

Understanding the Psychic World – average attendance – 6

What membership means – 2 – average attendance – 6

Deep Dive into Freedom of Thought – only an introductory session so far

Intuitive Approach to Stanzas of Dzyan – deferred til October

Intro to the Mahatma Letters - deferred til October

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**WORKSHOPS**

**Saturdays**

**Members (and friends) meeting:**

Self Culture - 10.30am- 3.30pm - based on Taimni text – 2 were run -Average Attendance 10

Compassion and the Heart - 10am- 4pm -attendance 14

Rainbow Bridge -10am- 4pm - attendance 12

The Aware You –9.15am -5.30pm - 3 of 4 full day sessions were run monthly, June, July, August - Average Attendance 10

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PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS DURING YEAR UNDER REVIEW

**Our Theosophy Long Weekends (12) have been a great success – these are talks and study groups held over 4/5 consecutive days – some of the keynote speakers have been:**

John Vorstermans  
Tony Petcopoulos  
Barry Bowden  
Peter Schultz  
Barbara Atkinson  
Russell Sturgess  
TOS representatives

#### **VISITING OR SPECIAL SPEAKERS**

The following speakers visited our Lodge-

Linda Oliveira  
Pedro Oliveira  
Phillipa Rooke  
Barry Bowden  
Dianne Kynaston  
John Vorstermans  
Tony Petcopoulos  
Barbara Atkinson  
Kerry Oldfield  
Beverly Parker  
Elina Juusola  
Peter Schultz (Toowoomba)

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#### **PREMISES**

Our own premises continues to be on our wish-list..

We have explored the possibility of tendering for other available premises, as per last year also. To date nothing has come to fruition

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#### **BOOKSHOP AND/LIBRARY ACTIVITIES/MAGAZINE / NEWSPAPER**

Monthly library. We are still looking for a permanent library space 'solution' to be accessible on a more regular basis as we have a lot more books than our current public meeting storage cupboard can handle. Work has been sporadic on updating our digital cataloguing system for our library. A full day working bee is planned later this year to audit our books in our library.

Magazine - Our quarterly Bulletin is available online now and we are encouraging our members and friends to utilize this.

Beta testing for our daily online theosophy newspaper is into it's 3rd 6month round and successful trialling of a small online bookshop has continued with a group of users. ..

Members are being encouraged to explore online resources available and we appreciate the resources being developed by HeadQuarters (Australia)

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#### **ALLIED ACTIVITIES (e.g. T.O.S., Young Theosophists)**

Young theosophists \*\*\* we are reviewing the potential for this to be included in our next event

TOS has held regular fundraisers throughout the year, including film evenings, raffles, lunches. They are always well supported by our Lodge.

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## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Noosa weekly public meetings in 2016 were held at the Tewantin CWA/RSL Hall in lieu of social Friday outings. We review this quarterly. Attendance and support has been encouraging to date.

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We continue to focus on automating our routines wherever possible, sharing our skillset and transferring tools etc. to free up our valuable volunteer hours.

We are using and participating in some of the community resources and training/mentoring programs available to non-profits /community groups.

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### **Volunteer training.**

In the interests of skills development and smooth succession, a regular volunteering and orientation session has been run every Tuesday since July and whilst attendance has been sporadic, interest is gradually building. Topics covered include such things as expert positioning and profile, media release, filling events, online presence - blogs, facebook, social media, facebook live streaming etc.

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**Travel :** The April inaugural trip to Egypt was a transformational experience for those who went (3)

We hope to have more travel opportunities announced later this year for travel over the next 18 months.

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### **Online presence:**

Our Lodge has a basic online presence via blog, google website and facebook and mention on Australian TS website. As HQ develops their website this year, there is an opportunity for our Lodge to migrate to the Australian website. Until recently the main 'meta-tag' / search term for our Lodge was 'theosunnycoast' setup 2010/2011. We are now listed on google for both venues, Buderim and Noosa. Our local webpage software will be phased out by Google within the year which means an upgrade/ rewrite or 'migrate' to the Australian website.

We have been beta testing a simple mobile app for theosophy and are on track for December release (to be shared with other 'lodges and groups)

Similarly, VLOG and our local TheosophyTV that we have been beta testing during this year should be ready for a small December release.

Earlier this year, 3 small TS study meet-ups at our local University of Sunshine Coast and a local school were trialled and there is much scope for developing these, however we have been constrained by our limited resources in \$, available people, and more importantly potential volunteer's attitude. These initiatives have been in response to requests..

We are slowly progressing re actioning streaming our talks to meet-up style gatherings and other similar groups around the Sunshine Coast who have approached us re supporting them. We are now exploring facebook live-streaming to do this.

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**Publicity /media**

I have been training (at my own expense) in several programs that outline the formulas to generate free media and strategically build profile online and will train anyone in the basics who is genuinely keen to learn and implement for our Lodge.

As with many other things this space is transforming and morphing at a rapid rate and competition is intense for the conventional way of securing free listings. It is naive to simply submit copy and sit back expecting to be guaranteed publication with ensuing high uptake of invitations to attend events.

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\*\*\*\*\* Elina Juusola from Gympie and I have continued to work together on theosophy projects of mutual interest.. it's an easy 50k drive from where she lives to Noosa. Initially she had indicated interest in working with Sunshine Coast Lodge, however the plan is now to develop this area independent of Sunshine Coast as a 'stand-alone' group.

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