

Templer Record

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(originally "CIRCULAR of the TEMPLE SOCIETY in AUSTRALIA")

Founding Day

'Lass uns den Anfang doch gelingen, sei auch den Enkeln erst das Ziel beschert'
'Let the beginning, pray, succeed – the prize, though, be our grandsons' gift'

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REFLECTIONS

TEXT OF THE MONTH – Romans 12:9-21
Genuine Love in Action

Love is a word we use often and easily. We can love things like food and a good TV show. We can love an attractive man or woman, and amongst many other things we can also love our friends and our family. All this can make the idea of love confusing. In Greek, I understand that there are three words that stand for different types of love. I wish to consider deep connecting, respecting and uplifting love that I will label 'genuine'. As Templers we value as most important the parts of the Bible that make sense and the verses that enable us to live better. Overall, I like the areas addressed by Romans 12:9-21, but I have mixed feelings regarding the set of instructions on how to put genuine love into action.

The passage tells us to love sincerely, devotedly and to honour others above ourselves. In the world where we look for instant gratification and where we work long hours, it is tricky to find the time and energy to maintain connection with friends and family. It can be good to ask ourselves a few important questions along the way. Are we living to work or are we working to live? How are we doing in the mad juggling act of our present lives? Are we finding enough time to allow our genuine love for ourselves, our family and our friends to thrive? I love the phrase: Live in harmony with one another. Are we achieving this to the extent we want, or are there some changes to be made? Unlike the passage though, I do not think that we should love and honour others above ourselves, but rather love ourselves first. If we run ourselves ragged, we just don't have the energy to give to others. I think it is once we love and honour ourselves that we then have the energy and joy with which to love and honour those around us.

The text says to 'bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse and do not repay anyone evil for evil. If your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' My first reaction to this is divided. I agree that two wrongs don't make a right. That trying to pay back for deeds done does not solve the problem, it usually makes everything worse. Also, often we can learn much from the faults that people find in us, and by tending to these we can grow. However, I also strongly disagree with this text, too. I was bullied for four years in primary school. I repeatedly 'turned the other cheek' to my enemies and repeatedly returned their horrible behaviour with kindness. The kids merely got more vicious in their attacks, and I was a great person to bully as I never fought back. As a result, I was an incredibly sad and low little girl, who hated school and hated myself. Every nasty word, every cruel act hurt ever

more deeply and I thought I was worthless. I now know so well that I was not worthless, rather that I was beautiful and sweet, but so ill-informed by the Bible. You do not turn the other cheek to bullies, you stand up for yourself and fight back. You do not allow them to treat you disrespectfully, for humans are like most other animals that get a great thrill out of picking on the weak. Humility never burnt any brows of my horrid school bully enemies; it just made me weaker and encouraged them in their quest to feel the fun of my humiliation.

As I write this piece, I am struck by how relevant the text of the month is to the last few days that I spent with my father and his family up in Hervey Bay in Queensland. There we grieved and celebrated the life of a much-loved uncle on my father's side, Uncle Noel. I think that Uncle Noel really nailed the juggling act of life. In fact, I think he dedicated himself to balancing work, family, friends, fun and a tangible wonder of the Universe. Uncle Noel showed he loved and respected those who surrounded him.

He was generous with the time that he shared with others and generous in sharing his talents by fixing things, building things with others. At work he was a highly regarded instrument maker, working with extremely precise instruments at CSIRO. He was a great father and husband. We watched the old videos, where the family would easily give him a gleaming smile behind the camera. He was a practical joker with a keen sense of humour. When Uncle Noel smiled at you, he made you feel special. Now this is not meant to be an obituary to him and I am sure many of you have examples of people who seemed to manage 'It' – people who seem to have found a happy and fulfilling life – people who have worked very hard and wisely to live a life that has enriched the world with their genuine love. And it can be good to reflect on whether we, too, can move a little closer to living a more rewarding, loving life.

Ingrid Turner

'LIVING BUILDING STONES'

Community makes the Temple Society and the Temple Society lives through community

One of four contributions by young people to the TGD's TS150 'Festschrift'

Lego? Duplo? Wooden blocks? We're all familiar with building blocks since early childhood. Building 'stones' are for playing and creating. It's exciting to wonder how one's creation will look. How it develops depends on the child's creativity and how it fits the blocks together. If what it builds holds up, the child wants to show it to someone. Building is fun, especially if we see something good coming out of it: we want to share our joy and excitement.

Can the image of a child building with blocks be used in relation to us, to the Temple Society?

In the New Testament we read [in 1 Peter 2:5] ‘like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual temple...’ (*ihr als lebendige Steine erbaut euch zum geistigen Tempel...* [interesting difference in the translations: let yourselves be built – by whom? – and: do it yourself, be the agent]). In the New Testament’s view, the building stones themselves build the temple. No one takes us, the ‘building stones’, and places us wherever he wants. We ourselves have the task to take our place, to see where we fit in, where we want to join in.

A single building block cannot build anything. In order to build something, we must not lose sight of the other building stones. Especially as a community – together – something can be achieved. Community makes the Temple Society, and the Temple Society lives through the community. We need not imagine something static, especially the temple that is to be built in a spiritual way determined by our thinking. And each of us may share our thoughts, even if they are sometimes critical of the Bible.

Every now and then, we younger ones are encouraged to be involved in a Youth Service and to give our thoughts free rein. There are few crucial religious tenets and no credo as such. We can justifiably be considered a very biblical faith community. We determine what the Temple Society looks like, what form it should take, that is, in what direction it should be built.

Today we no longer believe in the end of the world as perhaps early Templers still did. Notwithstanding all our freedom, the most important aspect to recognise is the teaching of Jesus and therefore faith in God and in loving our fellow human beings, as well as striving together for the kingdom of God. If this important aspect is rooted firmly within us, then each one of us is already a temple. But the really exciting thing happens only when a number of individual temples, a number of building stones, want to form a temple.

How can that happen in our communal life? Living building stones need nourishment, and not just of a spiritual nature. A lovely ritual is having coffee and cake after *Saal*. Or eating a meal together after festive events like today. Thoughts are exchanged, people listen and relate a little about their own lives. In addition, there are the family camps and the excursions, neither of which we would have wanted to miss as children.

Today, getting together is increasingly difficult, although activities are offered every so often, including some for children and youth, like canoe trips and holiday camps. However, individual Templers now live further apart and especially the young are not as dependent on other Templers as they were at the beginning in Palestine, where young people went to the

same school and joined in the same leisure activities. Here and now, we try to integrate into our closest neighbourhoods, often far from the Templer Community Centre. Why, then, persevere with building the temple?

Of course, we also have community experiences outside of the Temple Society. However, here we have the opportunity to work consciously on communal experience. We are allowed to consciously think about community, God and the world without being graded on the subject. Everyone can choose where they wish to be involved, no one can be forced. Whether it's with music, or behind the scenes in the kitchen, or creating handcraft, or listening to others, or whatever else needs to be done – anyone wanting to experience community can help.

The Temple Society lives through all members helping to build it together, having checked out where they can contribute. Even if some people's journeys are long, and circumstances occur that prevent one's participating more actively in Community life, the Temple Society is always open and can always grow. It will always be possible to become involved and to reconnect; the building stones are there.

But this exciting question will also always remain: how might the Temple Society look in the future? That will depend on which building stones integrate themselves into which structures, and what each individual can and is prepared to contribute.

Today it is fitting to celebrate, because the Temple Society, which without doubt is subject to changing times, is 150 years old. Just as a child would want to share the joy of having created something with its building blocks, so we can stand happily before what Templers have built up, and can look back on all that has enabled the building of the Temple up until now. And joy wants to be shared and is allowed to be shared.

Inga Reck, transl. Herta Uhlherr

ONE HUNDRED YEARS of the Temple Society and the opening of the Bayswater Hall in June 1961

When putting together the various elements of her mother's long life which spans a century of Templer history, Herta Uhlherr came across a letter describing the Australian celebration of 100 years of the Temple Society half a century ago. As head of the Sydney Community, her father, Gustav Beilharz, was an official delegate to Stuttgart for TGD's centenary celebrations and her mother Meta accompanied him. They also visited many relatives, whom they had not seen since Palestine. Meta, ever a good letter-writer, had written to Anna and Alfred Ruff, reporting on how 'Mutterle'

(Frieda Großmann) was when they saw her.

Replying on 16th June in an aerogram from Glen Waverley to c/- Blumen-Beilharz in Degerloch, Tante Anna describes the big event in the new Bayswater Hall on **Sunday 11th June 1961**:

It was a beautiful, sunny day, after a cold and foggy Saturday. Attendance was huge, 400-500 people were estimated. Mr [Wilhelm] Eppinger gave the address which was followed by a little play about the first settlers in Palestine; they had a tough beginning, our forefathers, they suffered much sorrow, yet did not lose courage or hope.

Then came coffee and a great number of lovely cakes, and the official opening of the Bayswater Hall, with music and entertaining items that were well received. The hall is big, beautiful and solid.

From Sydney I saw Otto Wurst with his mother [Emma, née Hoffmann] and sister, Paula Weller. From Adelaide, there was Dieter [Ruff] and Mrs Hertha von Behrens (née Wieland; Mr [Georg] von Behrens unfortunately had to stay home because he was unwell).

It was a great joy to have our son Dieter [Ruff] with us for two days, especially since he was looking better again. His little children were in good hands with Margrit [Wagner, sister of his wife Irene, who had died as a result of a car accident].

At 7 o'clock a meal was served: chicken with peas and rice, and tea. After greeting many relatives and friends, we older people turned our thoughts to going home, while the younger ones began to dance.

It was a lovely day, which will have given a lot to every person there and will remain a memory showing that the Templers have established themselves here, are holding their own and are prospering.

With warm and grateful greetings, Anna Ruff, transl. H.U.

PALESTINE – ISRAEL

Eberhard Frank from South Australia has written to us expressing his viewpoint that the Temple Society, as a community claiming to be motivated by compassion for our fellow beings, can closely understand and should empathise with the plight of the Palestinians, who to a large degree have been dispossessed and displaced, in Israel.

Eberhard was too young to have any personal memories but recalls hearing from parents, other relatives and family acquaintances how Templers extensively employed Arab labour and relied to a considerable extent on

their cooperation and loyalty.

Thus he is keen to gather information about the relationship (between Templers and Arabs) from those times (before that opportunity is lost) and is open to discuss the matter with anyone interested. Eberhard first wrote to the TSA after last year's 150th celebrations, stating surprise and disappointment that, during 2011, we did not acknowledge the contribution of the Arabs.

My understanding is that the Templers, from the time of the first settlement until the time of their forced departure, were largely able to successfully negotiate with both the Arabs and the Jews in their daily living in Palestine. This is perhaps of some import given the ongoing conflicts in that part of the world to the present day.

I travelled to Israel as part of the TGD-run trip in April 2010. The past results and threat of conflict between the Arabs and Jews were ever-present and it was hard to ignore comparisons with white man's relationship with the indigenous people of Australia.

As a member organisation of the Knox Inter-faith Network, the TSA was involved in the preparations for a recent forum conducted by the Network and potentially touching on such issues. The April forum had a range of speakers providing a faith perspective (Jewish, Christian and Muslim) on the situation in the Middle East. It was illuminating, educational and thought provoking.

The topic of an exploration of the role of faith was coupled with an overview of the Golden Rule. The forum facilitator, Prof. Joe Camilleri (Director, Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University), said, 'It raises questions about how people, individually and as members of groups, should behave towards each other.' In Christian terms we say: 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' Although there are slight variations in expression, depending on the faith, there is a commonality in the Rule's message.

Dr Stewart Sharlow (from the Janssen Spirituality Centre for Inter-religious and Cross-cultural Relations) expressed the view, 'As the world becomes more and more a single interacting community, the Golden Rule has the capacity to be the ethical cornerstone as the human family works together to build a peaceful, just and sustainable global society.'

If all those of faith know of, apply and are guided by the Golden Rule, I believe the situation in Israel is incongruous. Of course, this doesn't allow for the political debate. In the Network's preparations it was decided to try to steer a course devoid of politics. Perhaps this was naïve in the extreme, because just a few days out from the forum Prof. Camilleri (who had had to be approved by our Government funding body) expressed concern about the

lack of a Palestinian view and felt conflicted. He helped arrange another speaker, but this then meant the Israeli (as distinct from the Jewish) perspective was not expressly catered for. Coincidentally, our forum advertising material depicted a set of scales, yet our attempts to present a balanced dialogue were being severely tested.

With regard to the land Palestine/Israel mention was made of the Balfour Declaration (1917), which reads: 'His Majesty's [British] Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.'

Taken literally, it appears the first, but not the second part was achieved. Of course, the time span from 1917 to 1948 included World War II, and the significant events and associated effects cannot be discounted.

Presenting the Jewish perspective Dr John Levi OAM (Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Israel) spoke, perhaps reservedly given the absence of an Israeli speaker, historically about the predicament of the Jewish people. For centuries, they lived under Islamic rule and, later, particularly in Europe, had to learn to live with Christianity. With Jews being excluded from many European countries, together with a belief that acceptance was never going to happen, the need for a Jewish state became clear according to Rabbi Levi.

Dr Sr Mary Reaburn (from the Yarra Theological Union), the Christian speaker, although not a Palestinian Christian herself, felt it important to have a different voice bringing a particular dimension to what is otherwise a dichotomy between the two parties to the dispute.

With a group of Palestinian women (Muslim and Christian) and Israeli women (mostly Jewish) meeting to share their traditions and their concerns, she felt it is worth noting the role that women can play in the promotion of peace. Here I am reminded of the EM Forster quote, 'I am sure that, if the mothers of various nations could meet, there would be no more wars.' Peace is only possible if people meet each other, understand each other and grow in respect.

Dr Reaburn continued by referring to the complexities of the political situation. Christian Europe, in its non-respect of Jewish communities within Europe, created the situation which contributed to the holocaust (shoah). And, as a total community, Christianity did not resist the holocaust. This contributed to the establishment of the state of Israel and the inherent problem of how Palestinians and Israelis share the land.

The Muslim, Mehmet Ozalp (from the Islamic Studies Research Academy), spoke about a tendency for people to have exclusions to the Golden Rule, by making it conditional. He said that we cannot exclude others from its application because of a different faith or racial differences or because it is in our national interest (even if it's wrong; here Mehmet highlighted our treatment of asylum seekers as an example) or because they are our enemies. The Golden Rule can serve in diplomatic relations and in conflicts associated with the treatment of civilians and POWs. He felt the biggest fear of the Israeli people is what the Palestinians will do if there is some resolution. The challenge is how to treat others when you are in a position of strength – don't retaliate or seek retribution.

The last-minute addition, Palestinian Taimor Hazou (a previous secretary of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria), was perhaps more contentious, but no less judicious in his presentation. He indicated toughness is needed for any minority living in a heterogeneous society. 'The conflict in the Middle East is a negative cycle of violence, imbued in a sense of fear, mistrust and ignorance. The expansion of the Jewish settlements is justified on the basis of fear. The entry to Israel of Jewish people was traded off without any recognition of the indigenous ownership or presence.'

Taimor concluded by asking whether a cycle of light can be built. He felt that it needs the intervention of the international community.

At the beginning of the afternoon forum, Prof. Camilleri had posed a number of questions:

- Is religion or faith of importance in helping to explain the conflict, in accounting for its intensity, long duration and intractability?
- In understanding the role of religion, do we come closer to comprehending the nature of the conflict and the difficulties that stand in the way of resolution?
- Is religion part of the problem?
- Does religion have a positive contribution to make towards a long-term resolution?
- Is this of significance only for people of faith in the area itself or a challenge for all people of faith?

Sadly, the facilitated discussion after the individual speakers had insufficient time to seriously consider these and other important questions. It left me feeling like we had only made it to half-time.

Mark Herrmann

REGIONAL MATTERS

SOCIAL CARE

Dear Friends,

I hope you are keeping warm as the weather cools down. I was admiring the trees changing from green to the reds, yellows and oranges of autumn and I am grateful to live in such a beautiful area of Melbourne. Take the time to appreciate what is around you – it only takes a minute, but the memory can last so much longer!

An enjoyable meal was shared at Bella restaurant with twelve 18 to 30-year-olds who contributed to the Templer Think Tank (or T-cubed as it is otherwise known). This insightful group offered some good ideas and some valuable input and we appreciate them taking the time to talk with me. We also thank Kate Arnott from Knox Youth Services for taking time out of her personal life to join the conversation on the night.

The men seem to have had a good time at their ‘advance’ according to the photos on Facebook and we look forward to hearing more about it in the next *Templer Record!*

The **Golden Girls Pamper Day** only has four ladies booked in so far! It would be great if we could have some more ladies to join in what will be an excellent day of good food, useful information and some delightful pampering! On Thursday 16th August, starting at the Bayswater Hall at 10am and finishing back at Bayswater around 5pm, is when and where it is all happening. Please contact me if you would like to register for the event. Sydney and South Australia folk are more than welcome!

MoneyMinded Workshops are coming up in Bentleigh on the following Saturdays from 2pm-4pm: 7th and 21st July, 4th August, 1st and 15th September. **All sessions are FREE!** I would greatly appreciate if you could **RSVP by 10th June**, so I can order the resources, as they take a few weeks to arrive. Please RSVP as I will not be coming down to Bentleigh if no one books in. The sessions are suitable for age 16 and over.

The first topic on Saturday 7th July from 2 to 4pm will be ‘Planning and Budgeting’.

Telelink will be held on the 8th and 22nd June. I look forward to chatting with you. If you would like to sign up to be a part of this group, please contact me.

Keep smiling,

Martina Eaton, Community Care Worker
email: careworker@templesociety.org.au

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

GEBURTSTAGE – BIRTHDAYS

Wir gratulieren herzlich zum Geburtstag unserer Mitglieder:

Ewald Katz	Hartmut Beck
Skaidrite Blaich	Trudy Herrmann
Roland Hapke	Alfred Klink
Anna Kuebler	Uta Steller
Hugo Weller	Helga Sawatzky
Alma Schulz	Gerhard Weller
Werner Steller	Lilli Kuhnle
Ursula Wurm	Charlotte Trefz
Gunter Weller	Lothar Streker

und wünschen auch allen hier nicht angeführten Geburtstagskindern alles Gute und Schöne zum neuen Lebensjahr – Happy Birthday!

BIRTH

Liam Francome born 10.4.2012

Parents: Daniel Francome and Tanya née Weller

BEREAVEMENTS

Von Deutschland erreicht uns die traurige Nachricht, dass am 7. Mai **Jürgen Gronau** nach kurzer Krankheit in seinem Heim in Bergisch Gladbach im Alter von 82 Jahren auf immer von uns gegangen ist.

In tiefer Trauer,
seine Ehefrau Inge, geborene Faber
und seine drei Kinder mit ihren Familien
Ulrike (Klaassen), Paul, und Alice (Stiller).

* * *

Anna Eppinger (née Richter) passed away quietly at TTHA on Friday 11th May. It was as if she had given up, she had refused to take her medication for a number of days. Her active life had ended with a stroke in August 2004.

I would like to thank the staff of TTHA for the care that Anna received in the more than seven years she spent there.

At a difficult time like this, it was a great comfort to belong to a community like ours. My heartfelt thanks for the help and support I received.

A special thankyou must go to Mark Herrmann for conducting the service on Thursday 17th May in the Templer Chapel, to Jessica Blackwell who played the piano, to the nephew and nieces, and to Stephanie Iwanovicz for their reminiscences.

Kurt Eppinger, and the Richter family: Luise, Karl, Willi and Hans.

Condolences to the bereaved families

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Emma Polacsek, email emmap@supernerd.com.au

SAAL IN COUNTRY VICTORIA – 29th April

Six people travelled to Bendigo to attend the C.V. meeting at the home of Linda Beilharz and enjoyed her warm hospitality. It was a sunny day, which made the trip very pleasant.

We met at 11am. Mark Herrmann led the hour of reflection. The topic was the Golden Rule, universal across faith traditions. This topic was also the centre of discussion at the Knox Inter-Faith Forum.

Mark outlined the major points of discussion at the Forum and invited us to offer our views on ‘*could faith be a solution to the Israel/Palestine conflict?*’ This became a general debate and was thought provoking.

Following the formal hour, we enjoyed a shared lunch and Linda’s delicious apple crumble. After lunch we went for a walk through the nearby bush land to work off some excess calories before indulging in coffee and cake.

All too soon, it was time to bid farewell and make our way back to Melbourne. It was most enjoyable and relaxing day. We thank Linda sincerely for her hospitality and Mark for the stimulating discourse.

Helga Anderson

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

In May, Glen Eira Council conducted its annual volunteer recognition ceremony. This year Diana Rainbird and Gary Imberger were nominated for special awards (10 years of service) for their continuous service to the Templer Tennis Club Bentleigh /Moorabbin. Gary, as Secretary, and Diana, as Treasurer, have worked tirelessly in tending to the Club's administrative needs and obligations. To many this is unseen, but still very necessary work and ensures the continued functioning of the Club. On behalf of the Templer Tennis Club's members, I extend sincere thanks to Diana and Gary for a job well done.

I have long lamented that Knox Council doesn't have a similar scheme in operation. I have just heard that Heidi Victoria (State member for Bayswater) recently conducted a volunteer recognition event covering her electorate. Apparently it is open to volunteers, who have served for over 10 years, nominated by their group, club or organisation. I will definitely be keeping a look out for the call for nominations in the Knox local papers next year.

The Temple Society, as with most charitable and not-for-profit organisations, is highly dependent on its volunteers to ensure delivery of its many services and programs. We are indebted to each and every volunteer for the generous time given and commitment shown.

Thank you one and all!

Mark Herrmann

SYDNEY

We are looking forward to Mark and Marianne Herrmann's visit to our community in late May, and the community picnic that we will share with them. Due to an early Easter, there is no service to write about for this report.

About 14 of us gathered at Wenty Leagues on Friday 13th May for our regular Seniors' group. Despite a few doubts, we found that sitting at a table near the kids' indoor play area was pleasant experience. There were no screaming babies or whingeing kids, we even had fun visualising a few of our members sliding down the steep, colourful indoor slippery-slides. As so often happens on these meetings, there were many discussions, some humorous and light whilst others were more serious. I learnt lots from our gorgeous older folk, yet again.

Rolf Beck has been busy dealing with property issues this month, including a leaking water pipe, and a few more tidy-ups around the Hall. Thanks so much for all of your hard work.

So far I have four confirmed takers for the Women's Retreat. Bookings need to be made ASAP in order to guarantee a spot. Please contact Martina or myself regarding the Retreat.

Coming Events

June

- **Seniors' Social Group:** Friday 8th June, 11:30am at Wenty Leagues Club.
- **Founding Day Service:** Sunday 24th June, 10:30am (Ingrid Turner)
(Duty: Brigitte Lewis)

July

- **Seniors' Social Group:** Friday 13th July, 11:30am
- **Service:** Sunday 22nd July 10:30am (Duty: Erika Schulz)

Ingrid Turner, Elder and Community Development Worker for Sydney
email: ingridt@tpg.com.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Unsere letzte Andacht war am 1. April in Tanunda. Der Text kam aus dem Markus-Evangelium, Kapitel 11, Vers 10-18, passend für den Palmsonntag. Reinigung des Tempels! 'Als Bausteine des Tempels Gottes' sollten wir ständig an uns selber arbeiten und nach Verbesserung streben; dazu zwei Zitate:

Sei mild bei deines Nächsten Fehle, doch strengte deiner eig'nen Seele.

Verschließ' dein Herz dem Weltgetümmel, doch halt es offen für den Himmel.

Wir sangen zu Anfang Lied 30, Vers 1-3, und zum Abschluss Lied 32, Vers 1 und 2.

Unser **nächster Saal ist am 10. Juni in Tanunda um 2 Uhr**. Renate Beilharz wird die Andacht halten.

Rose Asenstorfer

Another photo of the fun at the German Community Language Schools Festival at Anakie Fairy Park on Sunday 20th May.
See more pictures on page 20.



Die Hexe mit Hänsel und Gretel

Photo Maria Hohlweg

YOUTH

YOUTH CALENDAR

Friday 8 th June	Friday Night Fun – Blue Baboon at Chadstone	Chadstone 6:45pm
Saturday 23 rd June	<i>Sonnwendfeier</i> /Winter Solstice bonfire	Bayswater 5pm
Friday 6 th July	Friday Night Fun – Bowling	TBC
Sunday 29 th July	Ice skating & City ramble	Melbourne City
Friday 10 th August	Friday Night Fun – Rock Climbing	TBC
Friday 24 th August	Friday Night Fun – Spotlight	Bayswater 7:30pm
Friday 14 th September	Friday Night Fun – activity to be confirmed	TBC
Saturday & Sunday 29 th - 30 th September	Bendigo Discovery Weekend	Bendigo
Friday 19 th October	Friday Night Fun – activity to be confirmed	TBC
Sunday 11 th November	Family Service & Community Picnic	Bayswater 11am
Sunday 25 th November	TG Breakup Party at Le Mans Go Karting	Dandenong South

2012 TEENAGE GROUP PROGRAM

For full details/enquiries about, or to book for, the 2012 Teenage Group program please contact:

Susi Richter, Community Youth Coordinator
email: susi@templesociety.org.au

FRIDAY NIGHT FUN

On 27th April, we went to the Bayswater Hall to play some Friday night games. The two games were Ant's Pants and Torch Spotlight. The first game we played was the Ant's Pants game. There were four queen ants and each had three normal ants – two of which were blindfolded. There were challenges that had to be completed, including making a throne and collecting food blindfolded. It was an interesting game.

The second game took place outside. Using our torches, we split into teams that had to hide somewhere in amongst the tree line. When you were spotted with a torch, the person spotting you had to yell your name (e.g. ‘Spotto Dane!’). If they got it right, you had to return to the Hall until everyone was spotted.

Overall, a really fun night. Thanks Susi and Paul for your great organisation of the evening.

Dane Rainbird

FRIDAY NIGHT FUN

Blue Baboon at Chadstone – Friday 8th June

This is the best game ever! Pedestrian Rally, Scavenger Hunt and ‘Where’s Wally’ all rolled into one!

Times: 6:45pm to 9pm

Where: Chadstone Shopping Centre – meeting place to be confirmed

Cost: Nil

Bring: A pen & paper and you may like to bring some snacks and a drink bottle, too

RSVP: Contact Susi no later than Friday 1st June (contact details above)

KIDS’ CLUB

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 3 rd June	Service & Sunday School	Bayswater 10:15am
Saturday 23 rd June	<i>Sonnwendfeier</i> Winter Solstice Celebration (<i>details on page 23</i>)	Bayswater 5pm
Sunday 24 th June	Founding Day Service & Sunday School	Bentleigh 10:15am
Sunday 8 th July	Service, Sunday School & Community Afternoon	Bayswater 3:15pm
Sunday 22 nd July	Roller Skating followed by Hymn Service	TBC
Sunday 12 th August	Service & Sunday School	Bayswater 10:15am
Saturday 25 th August	Disco/Bush Dance	Bayswater
Sunday 26 th August	Service & Sunday School	Bentleigh 10:15am

Sunday 2 nd September	Fathers' Day Service & Sunday School	Bayswater 10:15am
Sunday 23 rd September	Service, Sunday School & Community Afternoon	Bentleigh 3:15pm

ROLLER SKATING – Sunday 22nd July

A slight change of plans... Kids' Club will be going roller skating on Sunday 22nd July instead of the planned family games at Bentleigh Hall.

Full details will be in the July *Templer Record* but for expressions of interest or to find out more, contact Prue Webb.

KIDS' CLUB BIKE RIDE AND PICNIC – 6th May at Cranbourne Botanical Gardens



Families enjoying a rest



Joshua Stefanac
Ariel Weber
Gabriella Weber
Matthew Weller
Cameron Sawatzky
Sophie Behnke

GERMAN COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL Sunday 20th May

Many teachers, students and their families and friends enjoyed a happy day at the Anakie Fairy Park.



Templer member conducting the Templer German School students

Photo Maria Hohlweg



Above: Children dancing with Schnappi at the Fairy Park

Photo Nanne Herrmann

Left: Bentleigh German School teachers, wearing our Templer *Dirndl*

Photo Sigrid Schweiger

NOTICES – BEKANNTMACHUNGEN

COMING SERVICES

Sun	3.6.	Ba	10:15	Service & Elders' Meeting	Dr Irene Bouzo
Sun	10.6.	TTHA	10:30	Service	Hulda Wagner
Sun	10.6.	S.A.	14:00	Service Tanunda	Renate Beilharz
Sun	24.6.	Be	10:15	Founding Day Service	
Sun	24.6.	Sy	10:30	Founding Day Service	Ingrid Turner

FLOWER ROSTER

Ba	3.6.	Service – flowers: Petra Murrihy-Ruff, Annette Field – coffee: Mieka & Tessa Decker
Be	24.6.	Founding Day Service – Heidi Richter

COMMUNITY AFTERNOON ROSTER – 8th July

Everyone is invited to a service in Bayswater at 3:15pm. Bayswater-Boronia ladies please bring a cake (already cut) to share for afternoon tea afterwards.

Would the following ladies help set up around 2:15pm and serve tea and coffee: Inge (K.H.) Hoefer, Inge (Uli) & Birgit Hoefer, Lottchen Hohnholt, Krista Imberger, Helga Jürgensen, Christa Green, Inge Jones.

Erika English

**GERMAN IMMERSION PROGRAM
for Secondary Students at Glen Eira Secondary College**

Information Session on **Monday 4th June at 5:45pm**
Temple Society Australia Office – Boardroom
152 Tucker Road Bentleigh

Glen Eira Secondary College already conducts a successful French Immersion Program for first language French students. This follows on from the primary program at Caulfield Junior College.

By 2015, a group of parents are hoping to extend language tuition at Glen Eira Secondary College to provide an extension of the German Immersion Program for first language German students currently attending Toorak

Primary School.

To find out more about this program, parents and friends are invited to an informal information session with Dr Jana Verhoeven.

Dr Verhoeven currently has a son doing the French Immersion Program at Glen Eira Secondary and a daughter doing the German Immersion Program at Toorak Primary. She is a member of the committee involved in steering this program to fruition.

To attend this session, **please RSVP by Friday 1st June** by email to nanne@templesociety.org.au or by mobile.

Marianne Herrmann, for the Temple Society Bentleigh German School

CRAFTS

The **Bayswater** craft group is planning to meet every three weeks in the activities room in Tabulam. This month's sessions will be **Tuesday 5th and Tuesday 26th June** from 10am till approximately 12:30pm. If you are planning to attend, please let Helga Kuerschner know as soon as possible.

The **Bentleigh** group is now meeting at my home. The next sessions will be **Saturday 16th and Saturday 30th June** from 1pm.

Helga is always looking for people to embroider work at home. If you are interested in this, please contact her.

You may bring along your own craft to go on with or we will have something for you to assist with. If you prefer to do your crafts at home but would like to assist with items for the *Weihnachtsmarkt*, we would love to hear from you.

For more information please email nanne@templesociety.org.au or ring me.

Marianne Herrmann, for the Craft Groups



SONNENFEST

CELEBRATING THE WINTER SOLSTICE

At the **TEMPLE SOCIETY COMMUNITY HALL**

51 ELIZABETH STREET BAYSWATER

On **SATURDAY 23rd JUNE 2012**

Meals and Hotdogs will be available for purchase
from 5:00 pm onwards

The Bonfire will be lit at 6:00 pm
and the lantern parade will set off at 6:15 pm

(There will also be a smaller parade - 'Laternenumzug' - next door
at the Tabulam and Templer Home for the Aged at 5:00 pm)

Bring your own lantern, or there will be some available for purchase on
the night along with glow sticks.

After the parade enjoy cooking some damper by the bonfire.

**Come along and enjoy a family night out
like no other!**

For more details contact Susi at
susi@templesociety.org.au

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THE HERITAGE PAGES

SARONA'S NEW ERA – continued

Last month I referred to the special designated areas in Sarona Gardens. Another such area will be the **Musical Garden**.

The Musical Garden will be located in the north-western corner of Sarona flanked by the former Karl Steller, Samuel Weller and Immanuel Steller houses. The Musical Garden will be an open space, featuring an integrated ecological pool. It is designed to cater for music lovers of all tastes and will cater for a wide range of activities such as jazz festivals, evenings of communal singing and concerts. A number of cafés are planned in the precinct where persons can indulge in good *Kaffee und Kuchen* whilst enjoying a musical event.

A brief history of some of the houses surrounding the Musical Garden is as follows.

1. The Karl Steller House: ** Karl Steller was known as one of the largest orange grove owners in Sarona, and owned one of the biggest dairy farms in the moshav [agricultural settlement]. He was one of the Templer leaders who negotiated with the mandatory government regarding the future of the Templer settlement and about the sale of the moshav land to the Tel Aviv municipality in 1948. The house was constructed prior to the First World War. In 2005 it was moved to its present location as part of the widening of Kaplan Street [formerly Meerstraße].*

2. The former Immanuel Steller House* *was the first Sarona house to have undergone a preservation process (in 2003). The house was built before the First World War as part of Sarona's expansion westwards. Pre-cast concrete components were included, such as balcony fencing and the frames around the windows and doors. The wall paintings and stencilling techniques were also preserved inside the house.*

Immanuel Steller grew up on the moshav at the end of the 19th century, and was one of the largest citrus grove owners in Sarona. The British deported him, his son and his wife to Australia during the Second World War,

together with hundreds of Templers. His heart couldn't stand up to the pressure and he died from a cardiac arrest on board the 'Queen Elizabeth' in August 1941 and was buried at sea.

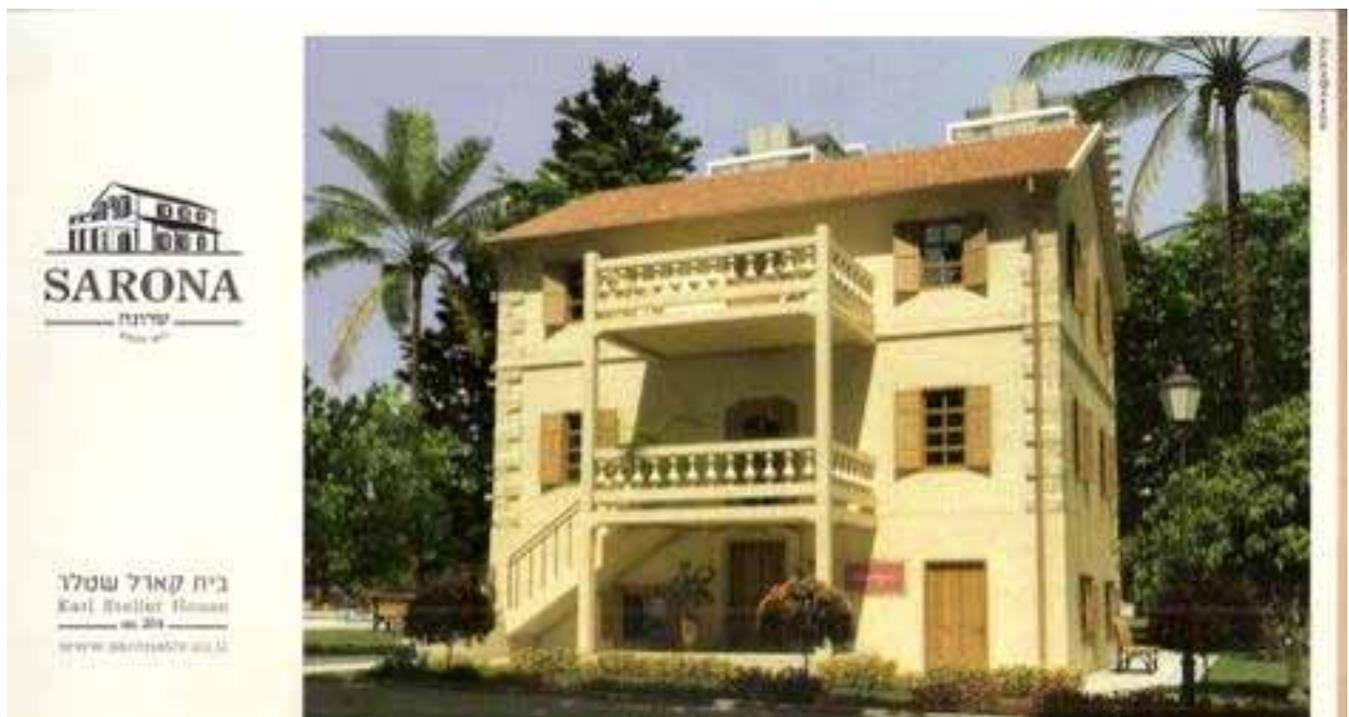
After the establishment of the State of Israel, the building hosted the government Office for War Victims, which was combined with the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

3. The Samuel Weller House* is described as: *the Weller family was a large family with many branches. Samuel Weller grew up on the moshav at the end of the 19th century and attended the local school. He and his brother jointly owned a large orange grove. The Samuel Weller house was built during the second wave of construction on the moshav with the expansion westwards before the First World War. There was a stable, a granary and one of the biggest cowsheds in Sarona behind it.*

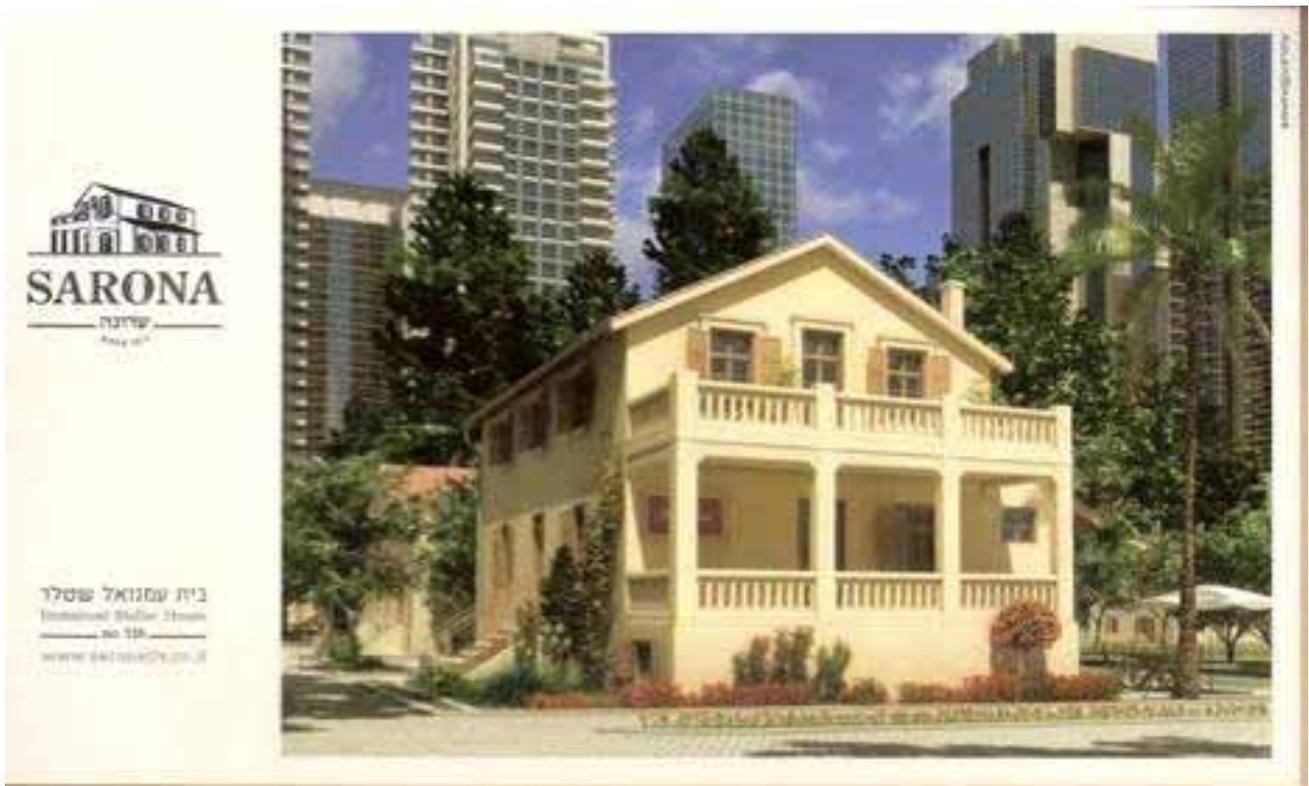
After the establishment of the State, one of the branches of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Supply used the building. The Weller House is one of the five houses moved in 2005.

* From *Sarona—since 1871* published in Hebrew and compiled by Yossi Goldberg et al.

Helmut Glenk



The Karl Steller house



The Immanuel Steller house



The Samuel Weller house

OPTICAL MUSEUM IN SARONA

We recently received from Peter Lange in Germany a request from Opticana, Israel's leading brand in eyewear fashion. Opticana will be opening a museum in the Lydia Weller house of Sarona Gardens, dedicated to visual culture, eyewear and vision. The house is presently being renovated under strict preservation supervision.

The curator of the museum is planning to honour the heritage of the specific location and portray the history of the house. As part of the proposed display, over 50 historical items will be exhibited, including a stove and other metal items found during the restoration process.

The request from Opticana is to seek information about the house and the people who lived in it and to search for **glasses and eyewear** used by Templers in Palestine. If any such items exist, their loan or donation to the museum would be highly appreciated.

If you are able to help in any way, please contact either Horst or Helmut.

Horst Blaich and Helmut Glenk

THE STORY OF ALI

Before the First World War, the Eppinger family (David, Marie and their eight children) lived in the Templer community of Walhalla in Jaffa where David was a school teacher, as well as an organist, choirmaster, occasional *Saal* speaker and librarian.

One day they noticed a waif of a child standing in their backyard, dirty clothes, dirty in body and emaciated. He must have been not yet ten years old and this tugged at the heartstrings of Marie Eppinger, my grandmother, and she decided to feed the young boy. But before she could do this, before she wanted her family near him, she took him into the backyard, stripped him off, put his ragged clothes in a pile, poured kerosene on them and set them alight. The clothing and the boy were heavily infested with lice and the poor child was covered in bites, scabs and sores. He was put in a tub of water, scrubbed down, given an old shirt belonging to one of her children, and given some food to eat. This would have been meagre fare, as our Templers in those days were not particularly wealthy, especially with a tribe of eight kids to feed!

Come nighttime, this boy who answered to the name of 'Ali' was still in the garden and it was decided that he could shelter for the night in the outside recess of the cellar window. So he took up residence there and settled down to a more or less permanent stay. How did he survive? He developed the

habit of following the Templer children to school just across the way and the kids started sharing their cut lunches with Ali. When winter came, he was allowed to sleep inside the cellar, as outside was cold and possibly dangerous.

All seemed OK for Ali, but then the war started and in 1917, the British occupied Palestine and the southern Templer colonies were forcibly cleared by transporting the residents to Helouan in Egypt. My mother always referred to this as *die erste Gefangenschaft*, our first internment. No one was thinking of Ali, and he disappeared from memory until after the Templers began returning almost penniless to their neglected *Kolonien* from 1920 onwards.

The Eppingers resettled into their old house and life resumed with some semblance of routine and order. One day the family were having lunch in the garden when one of the sons said: 'Look there's someone staring at us from near the back wall.' They all looked up to see a slightly older Ali beaming at them as he craved to be recognised. He was happy to be reunited with the Eppingers and when asked what he had done during their absence, he said he had been sent to the Schneller orphanage in Jerusalem for that period. But he said that when he heard the Templers had returned, he bolted back to Walhalla. When asked how he got back, he said that he walked all the way. The Eppingers were astounded, as this was a dangerous undertaking for a child probably not yet in his teens. Hazardous not just because of jackals and hyenas likely to have rabies, but because of robbers who would attack and rob you. So how did he manage the trip? He answered simply that he walked mainly at night, singing loudly to give himself 'Dutch courage'. After this reunion, the story of Ali ends abruptly until much later.

In 1945, Marie Eppinger was living with her daughter Elsa Beck in what was then designated the 'Perimeter Settlement of Wilhelma' (aka Camp 5) when there was a message by an *arabischer Stallbua* [stable boy] that there was an Arab at the 'bottom gate' of the Wilhelma settlement who wanted to speak to Frau Eppinger or her daughter Elsa Eppinger (now Beck). We lived near the 'top gate' and were still under guard by the Palestine Police even as late as 1948. Access to the settlement from the outside was also still restricted. As Marie was in poor health, Elsa cycled one kilometre down to the bottom gate to see what this was about. The visitor stated that he was Ali – did she remember him?

A happy reunion ensued, but then the question was: why had he come? He said that he had grown up since his happy time with the Eppingers and had found a steady job as a lifeguard and deckchair attendant at the beach of Tel-Aviv. He was aware that Germany had lost the Second World War and he was concerned that his adopted Eppinger family might be suffering from

want as a result. He was plainly aware of the hostility towards German nationals in Palestine and asked: ‘could he help?’ He had managed to put money aside and wanted to give it to Marie Eppinger if she needed it. His gratitude was really touching. Elsa often told this story, never to boast of her charity shown to Ali when he was a lost child, but out of gratitude that she had been born a Templer. She gratefully declined his offer of monetary help.

I wondered many times about what had become of Ali or of all of our loyal house and stable help after Jaffa was all but destroyed in heavy fighting between Arabs and Jews in 1948. The Jewish side won and most of the Arabs were probably killed or ‘encouraged’ to go into exile to the Arabic-controlled rump of what was Palestine.

Rolf Beck, *in response to last month’s note in the TR*

FOOTNOTE: I have often wondered why we as Templers have been so self-focussed since we were evicted from Palestine not to spend time thinking about and possibly helping those dispossessed people. I did have the chance to help one Palestinian – Ahmed al Khateb – when he became a stateless person in the Baxter Detention Centre. (I believe that some Templers also wrote letters of support.) Poor Ahmed was not just a stateless ‘boatperson’ but he was also not allowed to stay here as a refugee or go back to Kuwait from where, in desperation, he started his trip to Australia, nor to his homeland Palestine – a ‘non-person’ with no way back to Gaza where his mother lived, as Israel forbade any Palestinians the right to go anywhere near their borders, no right of return!

Ahmed won the right to stay in Australia, not because our government had a fit of humanitarian charity but because it would have cost more, politically, to keep him locked up than it did to set him free. Ahmed now holds down a job in an architect’s office as a CAD draughtsman and is studying for a degree in Civil Engineering. HE IS NO POTENTIAL TERRORIST! Readers can find out more about Ahmed on the internet or in the book *Panic* by journalist David Marr.

Rolf Beck

COMMUNITY LAWNMOWING ROSTERS JUNE/JULY

BAYSWATER		BENTLEIGH	
20 th June	Uli Hoefler Thomas Knaub	9 th June	Peter Ware Herb Hoffmann
		7 th July	Mark Herrmann Paul Weberruss
<p>Keys to lawn mowers etc. can be collected from Tony.</p> <p>If working on Sunday, try to avoid starting machinery before 10:00am to comply with Noise Restrictions in the City of Knox.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tony Beilharz</p> <p>To arrange an alternate date or a swap, please contact your partner and arrange the swap directly.</p>		<p>Normal start time is 9:00am. Both lawn mowers can be operated without a catcher (the preferred method). If the grass is too long, then one of the mowers can have a catcher installed.</p> <p>Lawnmowing should include the Secret Garden area (at back of Office). Please don't put lawn clippings in Secret Garden area (green waste bin is now available for lawn clippings).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Peter Ware</p>	

WORKING BEE – BENTLEIGH



A friendly reminder that the next Working Bee will be held on **Saturday 21st July**.

Painting jobs are keeping us busy at Bentleigh during autumn. One of our young Templers is seen painting the bench overlooking the tennis court.

Peter Ware

JUNE 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

New Moon ● Full Moon ○

1	Fri		ERC Be 19:30
2	Sat		
3	SUN	Service + SS Ba 10:15 + Elders' Meeting	
4	Mon		○
5	Tue	Ba Ladies Handcraft TTHA 10:00	
6	Wed		
7	Thur		
8	Fri	Telelink 14:00; TG Friday Night Fun Blue Baboon Chadstone 18:45	
9	Sat		
10	SUN	Service TTHA 10:30; Service Tanunda 14:00	
11	Mon		
12	Tue	Ladies' afternoon Be 12:00	
13	Wed		
14	Thur		
15	Fri		
16	Sat	Be Ladies Handcraft 13:00	
17	SUN		
18	Mon		
19	Tue		
20	Wed		●
21	Thur		
22	Fri	Telelink 14:00	
23	Sat	<i>Sonnwendfeier</i> Ba 17:00	
24	SUN	Founding Day Service + SS Be 10:15; Founding Day Service Sy 10:30	
25	Mon		
26	Tue	Ba Ladies Handcraft TTHA 10:00	
27	Wed		
28	Thur		
29	Fri		RC Ba 19:30
30	Sat	Be Ladies Handcraft 13:00	

July 2012

1	SUN	Religious Seminar / Discussion	
6	Fri	Telelink 14:00	

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Religious Services, Sunday School
Presentation, Confirmation
Youth Instruction and Youth Services
Weddings, Funerals
Religious Discussions and Seminars

SOCIAL CARE

Care of sick, elderly and lonely
Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged (TTHA)
Community Care Worker
Telelink

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Ladies' Groups, Community Youth Coordinator,
Kids' Club, Children's Playgroup, Babies' and Toddlers' Group,
Choir, Bowling and Tennis Clubs,
German Language Schools

CONTRIBUTIONS

The *Templer Record's* principal aims are to promote Templer Christian thinking and to further communication and harmonious living amongst the members of the Temple Society.

It is a community effort; contributions reflect personal opinion and must be signed; they do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publishers. Copy must be with the editor by the 18th of the month.

Items in the *Templer Record* now go on to the TSA's website. Contributors who do not wish their articles to appear should state this when submitting copy. Photos taken at a TSA event may be used in our publications, including the website.