



# Templer Talk

Number 2  
April 2013

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## Welcome to Templer Talk

The new Temple Society website will be launched very soon. The website has been built to cater for members, but also for people interested in finding out more about the Temple Society. It will be the hub of all communication activity.



The homepage features quick links to:

- Download the newsletter
- Recent photos of community events
- Updates on news and events

You will also notice a few familiar faces!

The member's area has extra features including a community noticeboard and areas for each Focus Group. Information on how to log in will be sent to you when the website is launched.

We hope you enjoy this new addition to Templer life and welcome your feedback.

# Reflection: Religion and Science

Everyone knows that science and religion are in conflict, but is this true?

The belief that these two fields have always been at war spread in the 19th century after books were published by men promoting personal anti-religious agendas in persuasive language.

Around this time, Templer founder Christoph Hoffmann pointed out<sup>1</sup> the boundaries of both religion and science - each uses a different methodology to ask and answer different questions. Any conflict is between different religious or irreligious opinions or ideologies. Neither field can make valid pronouncements about the other. 'Religious truth is of a different order from scientific truth. Its purpose is not to convey scientific information', but to promote greater spiritual maturity (The Clergy Letter Project)<sup>2</sup>. Religion is not threatened, but enriched by science unless it makes 'scientific' claims that science can disprove.

Based on different aspects of human experience, science and religion operate in different areas, but are complementary. Attempts to pit them against each other stir up controversy where none needs to exist.

**Herta Uhlherr**

<sup>1</sup> The Place of Science in the Temple Society in Occident and Orient, Part 1.

<sup>2</sup> Michael Zimmermann in Why Weren't We Told? A Handbook on 'progressive' Christianity, 2013.

## DVD Launch: The Templer Journey

**Saturday, April 20**

**2:15pm to 5:00pm**

**Bayswater Templer Hall**

The film is based on a series of interviews with seven members of the Temple Society, born between 1918 and 1934 in the former Templer settlements in then Palestine: **Hulda Wagner, Hermann Uhlherr, Martha Strasser, Wilhelm Sawatzky, Emma Polacsek, Magda Persztik** and **Werner Blaich**. It tells the unique migration story of the Templers in their own words.

The screening will be followed by afternoon tea. To assist us with catering, please RSVP to:

**Bentleigh Office**

**P:** 9557 6713

**E:** [tsa@templesociety.org.au](mailto:tsa@templesociety.org.au)

Copies of the DVD will be available for sale on the day for \$20 each.

# Community Care

It was lovely to see so many of you at *Sommerfest*. The weather was perfect on the day and the event ran smoothly with the help of our valued volunteers.

The word community, coming from common unity, is such an important word for members of the Temple Society. There are so many people who help out. Volunteers play a key role in our community and are essential to its longevity.

I am asking, once again, for volunteers who may wish to help in assisting with our Foodbank. Please contact me for more details on how you can help. It does not need to be many hours; just what time you have free.

The Men's Advance at Mt Buller, May 24 to 26, already has several men booked in, so if you are wanting a boys' weekend away you need to contact me ASAP. For more information, or to book your place, please phone me before April 24.

Telelink will be held on April 12 and 26. We look forward to speaking with you soon!

The *Frauenverein* Mother's Day luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 14 (not May 7 as the original invitation stated) in Bentleigh. Please ensure you RSVP to me, or **Helga Anderson**, inform us of any dietary requirements and that you are booked on the bus if you do not usually come in each month.

The residents and relatives and independent living unit (ILU) meetings for TTHA will be held on Tuesday, May 7. The residents and relatives meeting will be held in the Otto Löbert Upper dining room at 11.15am and the ILU meeting will be held in Warrina Upper dining room at 2.00pm.

'Headspace' is a national youth mental health foundation that helps young people going through a tough time. If you're 12 to 25 years old, you can get health advice, support and information from 'Headspace'. There are centres throughout Australia, so go to their website - [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au) - and type in your postcode for more information. For the Knox region, contact me and I can make a referral if you wish.

Keep smiling!

**Martina Eaton, Community Care Worker**

**M:** 0433 335 815

**E:** [careworker@templesociety.org.au](mailto:careworker@templesociety.org.au)

# Sydney

## Thanksgiving Service Sunday, February 24

Once again, it was a delight to listen to **Renate Weber** at the Sunday Thanksgiving service in February. Her supportive and positive presence is always appreciated by us Sydneyites.

## Next Service, Good Friday March 29, 10.30am

**Mark Herrmann** is kindly coming up to hold our Good Friday service. We invite as many of you to come and contribute a plate towards a light Easter luncheon. The Easter bunny hopes to make an early egg run, so bring your kids too.

## Next Seniors' Group Friday, April 12 Wenty Leagues

Seniors' Group seems to be raging, with 19 participants at the last meeting. Great news!

We hope all are well and happy.

**Ingrid Turner**  
Sydney Community Focus Group

## Next Service: South Australia

**Sunday, April 14**  
**2.00pm**

St John's Lutheran Church Hall  
Tanunda

**Rose Asenstorfer**

# April Birthdays

Wir gratulieren herzlich zum Geburtstag unserer Mitglieder:

- **Friedrich Goetze** 88
- **Heinz Kuebler** 88
- **Heinz Wied** 77
- **Hilda Beilharz** 80
- **Inge Laemmle** 75
- **Irene Bengough** 86
- **Kuno Weller** 83
- **Lothar Faig** 82
- **Luise Minzenmay** 80
- **Nelly Spieth** 76
- **Rosemarie Hahn** 85
- **Ruth Haar** (née Bauder) 85
- **Volker Bulach** 77
- **Waltraud Metrikas** 87

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

## A happy birthday to...

- **Alison Cross**
- **David Vollmer**
- **Grace Wagner**
- **Isabel Bulach**
- **Isabella Knaub**
- **Jordan Kuerschner**
- **Lachlan Green**
- **Lincoln Christensen**
- **Natalya Stefanac**
- **Odette McCallum**
- **Sophie Kruk**

## Trees Adventure

On Sunday, March 17, we had 27 'tree monkeys' (both grown-up and young), swinging from the treetops at the Glen Harrow Park Trees Adventure high ropes course! They were asked to describe their day with one word and here's some of what they said:

"Thrilling, challenging, tree-rific, cool, fun, great, amazing, fantastic, awesome, stretching, tiring, good, adventurous, tall and fantrabulous." I think they all had a good time!

A very big thank you to **Rolf Glenk** for driving us up that big hill in the Rosa bus, and for the precision parking in a very tight spot!

## Upcoming Youth Events

### **Comedy Festival: Sunday, April 7**

The show starts at 12.30pm and there are no allocated seats. We will meet at the Famous Spiegeltent at the Arts Centre, St Kilda Rd, Melbourne at 12.00 noon so we can get the good seats!

### **Phillip Island Trip: Friday, April 12 to Saturday, April 13**

This is an overnight visit with a surfing or kayaking session, a visit to the Penguin Parade and Koala Park, as well as some other fun outdoor stuff! The cost will depend on what activities we do and where we stay, but are estimated to be between \$70 and \$120 per person. Departure times from the Bayswater and Bentleigh Halls to be confirmed. Detailed information will be emailed to all participants when it is finalised. Please contact Susi no later than Wednesday, April 3 to book or to find out more information.

## Upcoming Kids' Club Events

### **Treasure Hunt: Sunday, April 21**

#### **Volunteers needed!**

Kids' Club is hoping to have a Treasure Hunt for all preschool and primary school-aged kids, but we are in need of some helpers to help organise this activity. If you can help, please contact Susi ASAP.

For more Kids' Club and Youth events in May and June, please log in to the Community Noticeboard on the Temple Society website.

**Susi Richter**

**Community Youth Coordinator**

**M:** 0400 764 257

**E:** [susi@templesociety.org.au](mailto:susi@templesociety.org.au)

## TTHA Update

The year seems to be flying by and we are already getting ready for our Easter celebrations.

A big thank you to the Temple Society Craft Group for their devotion and continual support. The Christmas donation enabled us to purchase a high-low electrical bed. This was such a generous gift and very important; high-low beds help prevent falls and assist our residents to get a comfortable night's sleep.

Our Community Care team is working very hard to raise funds for our new bus. So far we have raised \$2,200 towards a target of \$56,000. To all those who have donated, we really appreciate every cent you have been able to provide. The bus is a wonderful service for the community. It is currently in use 5 days a week, transports over 60 people per week (and over 3000 annually) and travels more than 200km each week. If you wish to donate, please call 8720 1333 for details. All donations are tax deductible and TTHA can provide a receipt for tax purposes. We would be happy to provide recognition and signage should anyone wish to donate the purchase of the bus for TTHA.

The Child Visitation Program at TTHA was closed due to a lack of utilisation and financial constraints in the aged care industry. This was a very hard decision. **Erica Megele** and **Merri Spittles** were fantastic. We wish them all the success in their next adventures and thank them for their contribution to TTHA over the years.

I wish you all a wonderful Easter and hope you all stay safe with your travels.

**Natasha Wilkinson**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**TTHA**

## Foodbank

The Foodbank/Community Hub is a new welfare initiative for the Temple Society. It's an opportunity to help people within our own membership base who may be struggling financially, as well as others in the wider community doing it tough. A small foodbank in our community room in Bayswater will enable us to connect with more people and empower them to improve their lives.

The Foodbank/Community Hub will be a safe and confidential place where people will be greeted with a welcoming smile and where they can access information, food and advice. If you would be interested in helping out for a few hours a week, please let me know. Training will be provided.

**Martina Eaton, Community Care Worker**  
**M:** 0433 335 815  
**E:** [careworker@templesociety.org.au](mailto:careworker@templesociety.org.au)

# Sommerfest

Thank you to everyone who attended *Sommerfest* this year. We could not have asked for better weather, and the kids and those young-at-heart definitely took advantage of the Aqua Bubbles and Rollers, and generally just getting soaking wet.

It was great to see our stalls back in the Hall once again this year with some beautiful handmade items. Once again thank you to **Renate Beilharz** for 'owning' the book stall.

Lunch was a great success this year. To all the lovely ladies and gentlemen who turned up on the Saturday to sit and peel potatoes and shred lettuce, thank you. The pretzels from Bretzel Biz were also a hit.



**Left: Pony rides run by Riding for the Disabled  
Above: The very popular Aqua Roller!**

The kids seemed to love the pony rides provided by Riding for the Disabled; we also got to help out a terrific charity in the process. Thank you **Heiner Wagner** for organising this.

The raffle was a tremendous success. Thank you to the following businesses/individuals for their raffle donations – Weddings & Events by Ladyz That Lunch, Yarra Valley Conference Centre, **Heidi Victoria**, Priceline (**Melissa English**), Leonard's Chicken Ringwood North (**Phil Campbell**), **Karyn Campbell**, **Erica Wagner**, **Inky Arndt** and Chesterfield Farm.

As I am sure you are aware, *Sommerfest* couldn't be run without the many volunteers who donate their time, effort and skills. To those who helped out on Saturday and Sunday, thank you for giving up your time. To the kids who helped put all the boxes in the bins from Box City in exchange for a chocolate, thank you.

A special thanks to **Fred Decker** for doing what you do best, and to those who pitched in at the last minute.



**Left: Erica Wagner**

**Above: The choir in full voice**

I would also like to take a moment to thank those who helped out on or supported the committee over the year. They include **Heiner Wagner, Tony Beilharz, Jon Breisch, Susi Richter, Mark Herrmann, Jörg Kemper, Diana Rainbird, Nanne Herrmann, Tamara Bouzo** (for her beautiful banner and program design) and **Mieka Decker**.

I would like to particularly thank **Mieka Decker**, whose dedication to *Sommerfest* this year is greatly appreciated. It was a pleasure working with you and nothing was ever too hard, so thank you.

The Social & Recreation Focus Group is having a meeting next month where we will be contemplating the current format of *Sommerfest* and its viability for coming years. We are also looking for *Sommerfest* committee members for next year. If you would like to give feedback on any of the above points (I hope I am not opening a can of worms), please email me at [emmasonno@gmail.com](mailto:emmasonno@gmail.com)

If I have forgotten to thank anyone, I do apologise.

**Emma Sonno**  
**Sommerfest Committee 2013**

## Bereavement

**Werner Minzenmay**, born 12/06/1925 in Haifa, passed away at age 87 on Saturday, March 9 at Sandhurst Aged Care in Carrum Downs after a long illness. Werner was the brother of Kurt (deceased) with Luise and Heinz with Cooky (Jakoba). He is also remembered by their families. The funeral service was conducted at Bunurong Memorial Park by Krista Minzenmay on Wednesday, March 27.

*Our condolences to the bereaved family*

## Book Launch: The Life and Diary of Frieda Grossman by Karin Ruff

“Focus on the little things and we all miss the big ones.” Frieda Grossman

This community event held in Bayswater on February 23 was a great success and a memorable afternoon for the author. The afternoon began with presentations by our Life Writing Course teacher, author **Jutta Goetze**, and by Karin, who spoke about the journey of researching, writing and publishing the book and read some extracts.



**Karin Ruff and Jutta Goetze (seated)**

Older Templers smiled to remember scenes and events they had forgotten and told stories to other guests.

“I think our generation is getting to that age where one looks back to one’s roots. It all becomes very significant. I feel a deep attachment to Palestine, and since our trip to Israel, I have wonderful pictures in my mind of all the Templer settlements...”

Karin’s husband **Thomas Gengenbach** and their sons **Sasha** and **Linden** valiantly managed the book table and photo projection, sitting in the heat of the afternoon sun.

I will treasure the afternoon for a long time, and hopefully you will have the chance to enjoy further fruits of the Writing Group’s projects.

## Bereavement

**Hugo Arnold Wennagel** passed away quietly on February 28 at TTHA aged 105. He was the oldest living male in Victoria!

Our sincere thanks go to **Renate Weber** for the thoughtful and touching service, **Irene Blaich** for playing the piano, **Krista Koumas** for producing the film of his life, the staff of TTHA who lovingly cared for Hugo for many years, and the kind thoughts from all of our friends and relatives.

In loving memory, **Hans and Kristin Wennagel**, **Trudi and Hans Blessing**, including his 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

# The Enemy Within Exhibition

On Monday, February 25, I attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition at the Shrine of Remembrance called [The Enemy Within](#) - Internment and POW Camps in Victoria 1939-45.

The exhibition guest-speaker was **Dr Silke Beinssen-Hesse**, who spoke about her personal experiences as a child internee. She and her family were interned in Tatura Camp 3, (A compound). Camp 3 was near Rushworth and housed civilian internees, mostly German family groups.

The exhibition consists of a number of photos and also exhibits borrowed from the [Tatura Museum](#), including items produced in the family camp. Some have great relevance to me. The photo of the kindergarten group includes my husband **Erich Frank** as a two-year-old in 1947.

One display case shows a dress knitted by my mother-in-law, **Emma Frank**, for her daughter **Gretl**. The family was interned at the Tatura Camp 3 (B compound) when **Gretl** was almost two years old. The display includes her first schoolbook, handwritten on a toilet roll and stored in a converted fruit tin. A photo of the **Roland, Kurt and Max Frank families**<sup>1</sup> is also on show.



Other photo displays have relevance to my father, **Lothar Böhmer**, a *Kochsmaat* in the Merchant Navy (*Handelsmarine*), who was captured in Iran in 1941 and who spent from 1941 to 1947 in various Australian camps as a POW; the bulk of the time in Murchison, Camp 13.

There are photos of the *Kormoran* memorial as well as of the detention block P where Dad was 'awarded' 28 days - the maximum possible - for being 'in possession of butter and cheese'. He was particularly upset by this detention, as he believed it was unjust. As a cook in the camp, he had access to these food items and was using the butter to make his birthday cake.

Richard Stubbs (ABC Radio) interviewed Jean McAuslan (Manager, Exhibitions and Collections) about the exhibition and this interview answered one question I had - what prompted the exhibition at this time? Jean had visited the [Tatura Museum](#) a few years ago and was surprised to find so many artefacts. It was this visit that triggered an interest in creating this exhibition. It runs from Friday, February 22 until Sunday, July 28, with free admission.

**Doris Frank**  
**Heritage & Culture Focus Group**

<sup>1</sup> The Kurt Frank family was released from the camp in November 1947 when Gretl was 8 and Erich 2 years old.

## Templer Publications

Templer Record is no longer published. There are now four official publications of the Temple Society.

### **Templer Talk – the monthly newsletter**

This keeps you up-to-date with Templer community news and events, just as the Templer Record did.

Every member with an email address will receive an email every month with a link to download the newsletter. Those members without an email address will continue to receive the printed version. If you would like it to be emailed to you, please advise the TSA Office. Be sure to check your spam box for the March notification and please unblock us so that you can continue to access the download link.

### **Templer Reflections – the quarterly journal**

The more contemplative aspects of Templer life - religion, community, heritage, philosophy and welfare - will be published in the new quarterly journal, Templer Reflections. The first issue will be published on June 3.

### **Online Bulletin**

This hasn't changed and will continue to provide time-critical updates to you on a regular basis.

### **Temple Society Website**

The new Temple Society website is the hub of all communication activity. The member's area has extra features including a community noticeboard. Login details will be sent to each member.

## Roster Reminders: April & May 2013

### Coffee and Tea Roster: Bayswater

May 5            Mother's Day  
                      Imy Loebert  
                      Helga Mazzella

May 19           Confirmation  
                      Ilse Nicholson  
                      Petra Murrirhy-Ruff

### Flower Roster: Bentleigh

April 28           Community Afternoon  
                      Monika Imberger

May 26            Ingrid Edelmaier

### Flower Roster: Bayswater

May 12            Mother's Day  
                      Rose Weller

May 19            Confirmation  
                      Ilse Nicholson  
                      Hella Edelmaier

### Lawnmowing: Bayswater-Boronia

April 14           Harald Ruff  
                      Herbert Schnerring

May 19            Heinz Vollmer  
                      Andy Walch

### Lawnmowing: Bentleigh

April 13           Dietmar Jürgensen  
                      Hans Ibel

May 11            Mark and Dane Rainbird  
                      Franz Wagner-Hesse

## Family Service & Community Afternoon

**Sunday, April 28**

**2.30pm**

**'From little things big things grow'**

Please join us for a celebration of life and growth, an interactive community family service for the young and young-at-heart.

The service will be followed by a communal afternoon tea.

**Nikki Imberger & Renate Beilharz**

## St Kilda Mums

Do you have any baby clothes/nursery furniture or other baby related items you no longer need?

St Kilda Mums is a not-for-profit organisation that recycles, repairs and re-homes items to families in need.

For more information on how you can help please visit [www.stkildamums.org](http://www.stkildamums.org)

## Bentleigh Working Bee

**Saturday, April 27**

**9.00am onwards**

Come and enjoy!

For further details, please contact:

**Peter Ware**

**M: 0417 371 684**

## AGTE Templer Exchange

Applications are open for next year's Australian-German Templer Exchange! As the last exchange participant, I would highly recommend it to any young Templer. It was a fantastic experience. I spent 3 months in Stuttgart, Germany, attending a two-month intensive German language course while staying with Templer host families and being a part of the Templer community in Germany.

If you are thinking of applying, please either give me a call, or send an email to find out more information. Applications close on June 30.

**Melissa English, AGTE Coordinator**

**M: 0409 540 076**

**E: [melissa.english5@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.english5@gmail.com)**

## Men's Advance

**May 24 to 26**

**Ittis Ski Lodge, Mt Buller**

Be sure to book your place before April 24!

For more information or to book, contact:

**Martina Eaton**

**Community Care Worker**

**M: 0433 335 815**

**E: [careworker@templesociety.org.au](mailto:careworker@templesociety.org.au)**

## Change of Details

**Ralf Wagner** and **Kathryn Murdoch** have changed address and phone numbers. Please contact the TSA Office if you would like to update your membership directory.

## New Member

On March 15, **James Kemper** was ratified by the Regional Council as a member.

## Wedding Anniversaries

### Golden Wedding Anniversary

**Gunter Weller** and **Sigrid Beilharz** were married on April 13, 1963 in Heidelberg, Germany. After many years in Alaska, they retired near Wilson's Promontory and will be celebrating there with friends and family.

### Silver Wedding Anniversary

**Andrew** and **Doris** (née Hahn) **Holley** were married on April 2, 1988.

*We wish you many more years of happiness together.*

## April Walk

**Saturday, April 14**  
**Back Beach Walk**  
**Mornington Peninsula**

### Meeting Point:

Sorrento Back Beach Car Park,  
Melway Map 156

**Start time:** 10.30am

**Distance:** 11 to 12km

For more detailed information on the walk and to let me know if you will be joining us, please contact:

**Trudi Murray**

**E:** [murray58@optusnet.com.au](mailto:murray58@optusnet.com.au)

**M:** 0437 947 006 (on the day)

## Christmas Crafts

The Bayswater and Bentleigh craft groups are starting to work on items for the TTHA, Bayswater and Bentleigh *Adventsfeier*.

### Bayswater

**Commencing Tuesday, April 23**  
**10.00am to 12.30pm**

If you are planning to attend, please let **Helga Kuerschner** know on 9729 2291 as soon as possible.

### Bentleigh

**Commencing Friday, May 3**  
**25 Catherine Road, Bentleigh East**  
**7.30pm**

At this stage, I am planning to meet every 3rd Friday, so the following sessions would be May 24 and June 14.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend on 0407 271 764, or email [nanne@templesociety.org.au](mailto:nanne@templesociety.org.au)

If you have Christmas ideas that you wish to share, or are prepared to make items at home but would prefer not to come to either session, please ring Helga or me. We are always looking for people to embroider, knit, crochet or sew things at home.

**Marianne Herrmann, Craft Groups**

## Marriages

**Kellie** (née Black) and **Paul Herrmann** celebrated their wedding at Macclesfield on February 16.

# Calendar of Events: April 2013

<b>1</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Sun</b>	'Super Speedy Sound Shed' Comedy Festival show, City 12.00 noon
9	Tue	Be Ladies 12.00noon; TSAL Meeting 7.30pm MoneyMinded Workshop Ba 7.00pm to 9.30pm
12	Fri	Telelink Youth Phillip Island Trip Sy Seniors' Group, Wenty Leagues
<b>14</b>	<b>Sun</b>	Service Tanunda 2.00pm April Walk
16	Tue	MoneyMinded Workshop Ba 7.00pm to 9.30pm
19	Fri	RC Be (TTHA) 7.30pm
<b>20</b>	<b>Sat</b>	DVD Launch of The Templer Journey, 2.15pm to 5.00pm, Bayswater Templer Hall
<b>21</b>	<b>Sun</b>	Service TTHA 10.30am KC Treasure Hunt
23	Tue	MoneyMinded Workshop Ba 7.00pm to 9.30pm Ba Craft Group 10.00am to 12.30pm
<b>25</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Anzac Day</b>
26	Fri	Telelink
<b>27</b>	<b>Sat</b>	Be Working Bee 9.00am onwards
<b>28</b>	<b>Sun</b>	Service Sy (St Hedwig's) TBC Family Service Be + Community Afternoon 2.30pm
30	Tue	MoneyMinded Workshop Ba 7.00pm to 9.30pm

## Contact

Submit Templer Talk articles by the 18th of the month by email to [tr@templesociety.org.au](mailto:tr@templesociety.org.au) or send hardcopies to the Temple Society Office.

For more information about the Temple Society, please contact us at:

152 Tucker Road  
Bentleigh VIC 3204

**P:** 03 9557 6713

**E:** [tsa@templesociety.org.au](mailto:tsa@templesociety.org.au)

**W:** [www.templesociety.org.au](http://www.templesociety.org.au)

