

# 2017 Templer Community REPORTS

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TEMPLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA



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*Caring Creating Connecting Together*



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The reports for the Social & Recreation Focus Group and the German Language School will be published in October *Templer Talk*.

“The  
greatest  
good is  
what we  
do for one  
another”

- Mother Teresa

# Communication & Promotion

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2016/2017 was a good, solid year for the Focus Group. We continued to maintain and expand on existing publications such as *Templer Talk*, *Templer Reflections* and, in particular, worked collaboratively with the Heritage & Culture Focus Group to develop the booklet *75 Year of Templers in Australia* to commemorate the extraordinary history of the Temple Society Australia.

*Templer Reflections* (in its current form) has been published now since 2013 and it's time to acknowledge the creativity, commitment and skill of the editors, Elders Renate Beilharz, Jessica Blackwell, Mark Herrmann, Christa Lingham, Theo Richter, Herta Uhlherr, Renate Weber, as well as sub-editor Peter Hornung, who always manage to bring together interesting and insightful issues that tap into the heart and mind of the Temple Society as well as its readers.

We continued to support the work of Focus and Interest Groups, as well as the TSA Office, including creating 15 or more flyers, and maintained our online presence with the Temple Society website, members' area and, now, in growing the Temple Society Australia Facebook page. (Interestingly, engagement is at its highest for anything relating to the history of the Templers, reinforcing how extraordinary it is!).

We are now planning a year of growth and expansion in 2017/2018 which wouldn't be possible without our members Marcus Weber, Paul Blaich and Renate Beilharz. We would also like to thank retired member, Kirsten Lubitz for her past involvement and commitment.

**Angela Woodburn**  
**Communication & Promotion Support Worker**

# Elders

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There have been a number of highlights in the twelve months this report spans, the Elders trying new ideas to engage our wider community. I remember vividly the *Tree of Life* activity on Remembrance Day, during which we melted Skittles (into a bed of water on the floor of the Bentleigh Hall) and watched the colours merge, just as our relationships with others do. This Service will be repeated in Sydney in November this year.

Who was present when we flew paper planes as part of Jessica Blackwell's Service in the Bayswater Chapel, and who enjoyed the pizza after our candlelit Hymnal Service also in the Chapel? We even posted some of these events on Facebook!

Our Elders conducted almost forty Services in various locations – Bentleigh, Bayswater, Meadowbank, Wandong and Maldon (as part of a family and community sharing weekend), at TTHA and in South Australia. These 14 volunteers often used the prescribed Bible text and then expressed their own thoughts and experiences to provide/share spiritual and emotional guidance to members and friends. Elders are also willing and able to address the less pleasant sides to the world we live in, and I congratulate those with the experience, courage and knowledge to talk about such matters. On occasion, Elders have successfully shared Service presentations and invited members of the community to speak. We are always on the look out to recruit new participants to read prayers or scripture or be involved in other supportive roles. Please let us know if you are keen to participate.

Initiatives were undertaken to make children and families feel more welcome in our service spaces. Elders were already incorporating stories suited to all ages and now, in addition to this, activity tables for children

# Elders

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have been trialled. These give children a practical activity to complete during the Service, while staying in the same space as their parents and the community. The activities usually reflect the themes of the Service, so keep an eye out for them at the next Service you attend.

A number of Elders also attended presentations facilitated by the Progressive Christian Network Victoria to expand their knowledge and to share ideas. Herta Uhlherr travelled to Brisbane for the *Common Dreams* conference.

We had a couple skip down the aisle as the community joined them for their wonderful Chapel wedding, and it was delightful to have a marriage ceremony where Templer and Catholic beliefs were combined.

Two children were presented in Bayswater and one in Bentleigh, while twelve funerals were conducted to farewell loved ones during the year. Mark Herrmann has conducted many of these, and we are grateful for his thoughtful, caring preparation and presentation of a Service uniquely tailored to each family and honouring the person who has died. His efforts are capably complemented by a number of others conducting funerals. I think this is an area where our community is truly blessed.

This year also saw 15 young people confirmed. The Elders' teaching team, so ably led by Renate Beilharz and Renate Weber, provided ten sessions of guidance for our youth before confirming and blessing them in front of their families and friends. They were a wonderful group of young people, articulate, thoughtful and caring of each other and the world they live in. We hope they will continue to keep the concepts and ideals they learnt about during these classes as a guiding light along their paths into the future.

# Elders

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The Elders take it in turns to write a Reflection for the monthly *Templer Talk* and a team of two is allocated to source, edit and produce the quarterly *Templer Reflections*. Topics covered in the past year were *Perceptions*, *Light and Dark*, *Is God Green?* and *Time*. We hope you have found these publications interesting and informative, as they always require a great effort from those who undertake these tasks. Peter Hornung and Mark must be thanked for their proofreading skills, and Peter also for his broad knowledge on so many topics. Angela, our (Communication & Promotion Support Worker) must also be thanked, as she edits and formats our regular publications – whether *Templer Talk* or *Templer Reflections* – to make them vibrant and stimulating.

Elders have met on a number of occasions to discuss religious and pastoral issues. The search for a Sydney Community Faith Facilitator continues, and we hope to make an announcement soon.

We are so grateful to our pianists, who add the beauty of music to our Services, and to the choir members, who always rise to their best when they sing at our special occasions, such as Presentations, Confirmation, *Sommerfest* and Christmas. The 'Flower Ladies' in both Bentleigh and Bayswater do an amazing job. I can still visualise the wonderful autumn leaves and chrysanthemum-filled vases adorning the Chapel for Mother's Day this year.

It adds to community spirit when we are able to share a warm drink and conversation after a Service. We are thankful to the volunteers who set up the chairs and tables and serve the refreshments. Our venues are always clean and well maintained by our cleaning staff and volunteers. It is because

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we work so well together as a community that such a small band of like-minded people can achieve so much in any one year.

Thank you to all and long may we continue to **be!**

**Renate Weber**

**- with the assistance of Renate Beilharz and Mark Herrmann**

[Following last year's AGM, Renate Weber served jointly, with Renate Beilharz, as leader of the Elders, Religious & Spiritual Focus Group before formally handing over at the beginning of 2017 – both women are deserving of our thanks for their selfless dedication and hard work. Given the nature of some topics, particularly ongoing TTHA-related deliberations, both ladies have attended RC meetings in the leader's capacity.]

# Heritage & Culture

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Doris Frank, Edith Riordan and Dot Ware are the Focus Group members and Heide Dryburgh, Trudi Murray and Renate Weber are co-opted members. Other volunteers continue to help out on various projects, as needed. Edith and Dot are stepping down from their positions this year, and we thank them both for their input over the last few years.

Heritage queries, both local and international, continue to arrive on a regular basis. It is still a surprise to see how much interest in the Temple Society is shown from researchers, in Israel in particular. We continue to research family stories and search the family tree database for members and friends. A major project currently underway is a complete audit of all Archive material and a clean-up of the Archive database is occurring in preparation to changing to a web-based system in the not too distant future. Archive policy documents and manuals are also being updated at this time. This work has been a huge undertaking, and particular thanks go to, not only the regular volunteers who spend hours each Friday working in the Archives, but especially to two new volunteers: Tania Richter and Nikki Imberger, both trained in this field, who joined the team earlier this year. Two of our ongoing projects are (i) the collecting of Templar members' and friends' cemetery records and photos for Australian cemeteries and (ii) the collection of Templar confirmation photos in Germany, Palestine and Australia – we have collected ninety-seven photos (with names) so far.

We are delighted with the feedback received regarding our new display cabinets in Bayswater and in Bentleigh. The Bayswater cabinet has material on the Templer Choir on display, while the Bentleigh one has a Helouan display.

# Heritage & Culture

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A highlight for the year was the event *75 Years of Templers in Australia*, marked by an August Sunday Service held by Renate Weber, followed by lunch and display of Templer timeline photos, with the subsequent production of a booklet of the same name. This event and booklet project was well worth the effort, especially given the discussion and collaboration generated between current and past members of the Temple Society.

Heritage articles continue to be written regularly for *Templer Reflections*, usually generating good discussion with readers afterwards.

Close collaboration is maintained and resources are shared with the Temple Society in Germany, Jörg Klingbeil working with Peter Lange as the latter retires from his position as TGD Archivist.

Another successful *Moments Musical* classical music concert was held in October 2016 with one to follow in July 2017. For this year's concert we trialled offering TSA members an added discount. We hope these concerts will continue in future years. The performers love the acoustics in our Chapel.

Another successful Bayswater Advent evening was held in early December, with a superb guest performance from Demian Martin, a Templer-connected visitor from Germany.

In August, we will host an afternoon program showcasing the Yoel Amir postal collection that was generously donated to the Temple Society by him earlier in the year.

# Heritage & Culture

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We appreciate all the assistance of our volunteers – Focus Group members, co-opted members and other volunteers who work in the Archives, willingly translate and decipher German documents, scan and digitise documents, work on the database and process resources. We very much appreciate everyone's help.

**Doris Frank**

# Property Management

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The following is a summary of the main achievements of the Focus Group during the year, as well as projects which are currently being planned.

## Bayswater

Motorised shade blinds were installed for the large east windows at the dais end of the Chapel. This project was mainly a product of the skilled craftsmanship of Manfred Decker. Two ceiling fans were also installed. It is planned to install a stormwater drain and new paving around the front to divert runoff away from the building.

The large pine trees (66 in number) along the northern and western site boundaries were removed along with the perimeter chain wire fencing.

Planning is underway for the removal and replacement of all the asbestos roof sheeting for the Hall and bowling alley. This has been a concern for some time, as it is very difficult to maintain such a roof and the sagging of the internal ceiling cannot be remedied without removal of the asbestos. It will be a major project needing to be carried out urgently to allow the continued safe operation of the Hall.

Working bees have unfortunately been poorly attended. This has made it harder to keep up the necessary general maintenance and results in additional expenditure requirements to compensate.

## Bentleigh

Conversely, working bees here have been well attended, which has been instrumental in keeping the general maintenance up to date.

# Property Management

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A heavy rainstorm on December 29 last year caused water flooding into the Hall that has necessitated replacement of the parquet flooring. This project has been completed and was, for the most part, paid for by our insurer.

## Sydney

The toilets in the hall were refurbished, including removal of the asbestos linings and the conversion of one of the toilets to be 'disability-friendly'.

A structural engineering report has been obtained to assess some issues of movement and cracking of the external brick walls. Differential movement of foundations and the associated cracking of walls is not uncommon, particularly in such an old heritage building. The report indicates there is no immediate concern but that some remedial works may be necessary. These works are currently being evaluated.

## Vehicles

No special attention has been required on either the Rosa bus or the VW Multivan – both continue to serve their functions well. A couple in the Templer Village, both qualified instructors, have kindly volunteered to assist us with the training of additional bus drivers.

And, in conclusion, a thank you to all Focus Group members and all the volunteers who contributed in keeping up the ongoing maintenance of our properties during the year.

## Manfred Weller

# Regional Council

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This Regional Council (RC) report strives to highlight the more important aspects of the Temple Society Australia (TSA) during the course of the 2016/2017 financial year. All dates refer to this 12-month period, unless otherwise stated. Members are asked to familiarise themselves with the report (and all associated documents) so that it may be taken as read at the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday 17th September.

Despite being scheduled to meet monthly, RC managed to chalk up 14 meetings during the year. These included a December Extended RC meeting, to which Focus Group (FG) leaders and representatives contributed, and special forums to address specific Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged (TTHA) items (land sale indicative terms sheet, new wing presentation, updated strategic plan and budget approval). Additionally, both the TSA Limited and TTHA Inc AGMs – where RC comprises respectively the company and incorporated association members – were managed and attended. We therefore have much to be grateful for in relation to our RC members: Renate Beilharz, Winfried Beilharz (Skyping or phoning in from the UK – time difference and all!), Wolfgang Frank, Bernhard Hoefer, Lisa Lark and Renate Weber.

RC recognises the need for a new TTHA wing and gave its in-principle agreement for the Home's Board to proceed to the next phase relating to detailed planning, costings and seeking the necessary permits. With certain wings having existed for over forty years, Government standards, resident/family expectations and a competitive aged care market all combine to force consideration of such an undertaking.

Even with the best of intentions, the TTHA land purchase at Bayswater proved to be a bridge too far (at least, for the present time), Paul English

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advising us that his Board made its decision not to proceed in good faith and after considerable reflection. In the interim, TTHA made a rental payment of \$300,000 to cover the financial year, a revised rate and lease agreement currently being negotiated.

This means the Home's balance sheet will continue to need TSAL backing, but will have the positive effect that the building program, should it go to the construction phase, can be financed internally by TTHA without the need for a third party loan.

The TSA strategic plan covers nine main areas:

## Growth in membership and participation

The TSA registered a net decline of 10 in membership number, with:

- 10 new Members: Carol Blaich, Marcus English, Nicola Haines, Janise Johnson, Jessica Kemper, Beverley Leszinsky, Erika Wilke, Adrian and Fiona Witham
- 4 resignations: Daniela and Martin Horn, Ursula Kaufmann, Sieglinde Meier
- 2 lapsed memberships: Birgit Blaich and Dirk Lubitz
- 7 births notified: Heath Emery, Edward Healy, Hudson Holtzman, Liam Paton, Edward Riordan, Cameron Stewart, Miles Strachan

# Regional Council

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- 14 Member deaths: Klaus Baldenhofer, Hertha Blaich, Werner Blaich, Emad Bouzo, Lore Decker, Lothar Faig, Felix Haar, Siegfried Hahn, Benjamin Hirst, Irma Richter, Bernd Steller, Heidi Vollmer, Elfriede Weller, Helga Weller; also 4 friends/associates died: Benno Asenstorfer, Peter English, Lotte Frank, Lisbeth Lorenz

As at 30/06/2017, the number of full Members of the TSA was 472.

Our age average and proportions within certain five-year age brackets have remained largely unchanged, despite everyone advancing a little on their time continuum. The largest movements in number were the following: 51-55 (down 6); 61-65 (up 8); 66-70 (up 4) and 76-80 (down 12) – all around the 15% mark.

Together with Claudia Mutschlechner's resignation, there was one member death (Ilse Fast) notified by Germany, making the TGD number 121. Peter Brüssel, a former member, also passed away. Between the regions we operate on a membership ratio of 1:4 for shared costs (like those associated with the TS President and the cemeteries in Israel).

We celebrated two volunteer recognition events – one in Sydney (for Emmy Hoffmann, Peter Leszinsky and Ingrid Turner), the other in Melbourne (for Tony Beilharz, Dieter Edelmaier, Uli Hofer, Dietmar Jürgensen and Sigi Messner). Should you take our hundreds of volunteers and multiply by their hours of service, you'd arrive at a very large number!

RC is considering the notion of a "community member", akin to the concept of a social membership some clubs and organisations have. Of course, we're not a club, but perhaps there are associates and others who would

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like to align themselves to the values and aspirations of the TSA without a specific religious (or spiritual) connection.

Another thought is the concept of a community hub in Bayswater. The Hall, which has served the TSA wonderfully well for over 55 years, is fast reaching the end of its useful life. Replacement is on the agenda, but what form should it take and who should it serve? I envisage a hub for the wider community – a place for people to come for art/craft or adult education classes, for a coffee, as a library or internet café, to meet, for a school breakfast club, to participate in a community kitchen/garden, as a men’s shed, for child care or as a medical clinic – all underpinning the core activity of the TSA as a faith community, including CHAMPION, our Playgroup, TTHA, Kaleidoscope and German School.

If, as we believe, one of our main challenges is holding on to our young people, then we will be “losing” one of our drawcards, Susi Richter, at the end of the year. Susi has devoted herself to the position of Community Youth Coordinator since its inception in 2002. Her legacy is the wonderful rapport she has garnered with our children and teenagers. We are fortunate to have benefited from her passion and sense of community.

## Religious guidance and faith development

The two biggest happenings in this area were the confirmation program, culminating in the Chapel service in May, and moving forward on the Sydney Community Faith Facilitator role. Renate Beilharz – now leader of the Elders, Religious & Spiritual FG – was/is instrumental in both and, with able support from others, her commitment to the TSA cannot be faulted.

# Regional Council

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Renate Weber, too, has been a mainstay of Elders' matters and many other fields of community endeavour.

Despite initially having some external interest in the Faith Facilitator position, our efforts are now focused on an internal appointment. The role aims to provide faith leadership based on Templer philosophy, to build participation in community events and to promote the TSA through new outreach initiatives.

A shared family/community July weekend in Maldon attracted only small numbers, but was a pleasant and worthwhile undertaking. I and another couple of Elders attended a Progressive Christian Network Victoria (PCNV) presentation by Hugh Mackay, launching his latest book *Beyond Belief: How we find meaning with or without religion*. It resonated with us and prompted me to write an article about the TS religious environment, particularly from a TSA perspective.

I responded to a survey from the PCNV, sent to leaders of associated groups, about our character, style, numbers and whether there have been changes regarding the choice of discussion topics, about the sort of resources used, our strength(s) and our sister community in Stuttgart.

Jessica Blackwell, as our newest (and youngest) Elder, applied to attend a one-day Multifaith Future Leaders seminar in June and reported most positively on the experience.

# Regional Council

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## Profile in the wider community

The numbers attending and being supported by CHAMPION (our food relief, referral and assistance service) are going gangbusters! The removal of the cypress pines along the western and northern boundaries of the Bayswater property has “opened us up” beautifully to the local community, and Martina and I, in July, again spruiked at the Knox City Shopping Centre’s community space.

Two themed discussions – music engagement in dementia care (Kirsty Beilharz in August) and policing in Victoria (Tim and Monika Heron in May) – covered wider society issues and drew audiences appreciative of our speakers’ experience and expertise.

Both the Tongan Free Church and the Primary Ethics group now utilise the facility at Meadowbank regularly.

With a possible renaming of TTHA, through the likely decommissioning of the Tabulam wing, RC has been invited to consider options such as Templer Aged Care, Templer Aged Services, Templer Care and Templer Community Care. We are fortunate in having a well-respected and recognised aged care facility; its name also serves as a positive indicator of the TSA.

I continue in my role as Knox Inter-faith Network President. The Network is successfully running grant-funded tours to a variety of places of worship in Knox.

# Regional Council

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## Welfare of our community

Two sessions of “Understanding the Aged Care maze” were presented by TTHA’s Erika Wilke and Ricci Rammanhor in July. The Home again successfully achieved Government accreditation in August and conducted its hugely popular and traditional *Weihnachtsmarkt* in November. For the latter, the full TSA site in Bayswater was utilised, with proceeds from the TSA-operated car parking assisting CHAMPION’s funding.

A Templer Heritage Day at TTHA organised by Sam and the Lifestyle team (the delicious lunch including *Maklube*, *Gulasch*, *Falafel*, *Humus*, *Tabouleh* and *Baklava* prepared by chef Vik) was well received. The Templer Choir sang German folksongs, much to the residents’ delight.

Given that the Home is responsible for “actual” resident care, Martina Eaton’s relationship with TTHA residents has changed to more of a pastoral care, emotional support, counselling and advocacy role. Permanent panels, describing both Templer and its aged care history (from religious and community perspectives), to serve as an information source for residents, visitors and staff alike, are being created for the lobby area near the lifts. The heritage component of the 2016-2020 TTHA Strategic Plan has been rewritten and, similarly, included as part of the staff induction manual.

## Financial sustainability

Leasing of the TTHA land now provides an income stream and will assist in addressing increasing expenditure obligations. As mentioned earlier, keeping the Bayswater Hall serviceable pending decisions of a property

# Regional Council

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review is crucial, while the sale of the Isabella Street factory in Moorabbin (well above its reserve price) was a significant windfall.

## Governance and Organisation

While a review of RC – and, in particular, its working relationships with the TSAL and TTHA Boards – is in the offing, we are mindful of the increasing dependency on paid staff due, in part, to a steady decline in volunteer numbers and capabilities. A review of the TSA’s administrative and executive leadership will bring about some changes, to operations and to personnel, over time.

I am pleased to welcome Cath Shelley as our new Youth & Activities Coordinator. She is presently working on orientation and transition with Susi. With an events management background, Cath’s role will span both the youth and community function areas. For this reason, and as acknowledgement of a relatively longer-term shortage of members for the Social & Recreation FG, consideration is being given to merging it with the Youth FG.

## Communication and Promotion

While much of what we do and manage internally is handled efficiently and well, I do need to question my (and our) ability to “market” the TSA. CHAMPION, TTHA and the German Language School are outstanding examples of fine work being conducted for the benefit of others. We continue to look for innovative ways of showing our programs and initiatives to a wider audience.

# Regional Council

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## Heritage and Culture

A historian and former Stuttgart resident, William Verran, gifted to the TSA a plaque and other memorabilia commemorating Kaiser Wilhelm II's 1898 visit to Palestine. An extensive collection of stamps, postcards and family correspondence from the Templar settlements there was gratefully received from Yoel Amir.

The August function *75 years of Templers in Australia* and subsequent commemorative publication of the same name proved a much larger undertaking than Renate Weber could possibly have imagined! Her efforts, together with Doris Frank and a willing team of helpers, ensured an event that will be long spoken about, with some of the material presented made available for the TGD *Dankfest* in October.

The German School continues to provide financial challenges and its continuing viability needs to be assessed.

With November's *Volkstrauertag* event again being staged in Tatura (the driving rain forcing a hasty reorganisation to the local RSL Hall), it is largely up to the German Embassy in Canberra, as the chief organisers, to decide the future location(s).

## Relationship with our German sister community (*Tempelgesellschaft in Deutschland - TGD*)

Heidi and Theo Richter (on Elders' exchange) recently returned from a short visit to the Templers in Degerloch. While there, during June and part of July,

# Regional Council

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Theo obtained details about the Israel tours from Karin Klingbeil. It is still hoped to be able to consider organising such tours from here in the not too distant future.

Items of community news from the TGD have regularly appeared in *Templer Talk*, a number of our members subscribe to *Die Warte* and frequent office-to-office contact is maintained, mainly by email.

This concludes my second five-year stint as Regional Head and, if you'll have me, I offer myself for another term at the upcoming AGM. I find the work challenging, yet rewarding, all-embracing, yet revealing of me and of others. The Temple Society remains a significant part of who I am; it has helped define me and continues to set an aspirational direction. I sincerely hope that there are many – present and potential members – prepared to share in our future.

I urge you to read the reports contained in this booklet, to attend the AGM and to contribute. Thank you to all who play an active part: the RC members, the team of Elders, the TSAL Directors, the TTHA Board representatives, all FG members, as well as our inspiring workforce and, most importantly, the “average” Templer.

**Mark Herrmann**  
**Regional Head**

# Sydney Community

## Community Support

Our Community Support Worker, Jan Johnson, has worked intensively to reconnect and support our small community over the past four years. This involved making many home and hospital visits to our senior members, consulting with families, maintaining phone contact, actively visiting our aged members now residing at St Hedwig Village, plus organising and participating in community events. This year has also seen a little more interaction with our younger adult members and associates.

Jan works closely with the Focus Group (FG), receiving professional direction and support from Martina Eaton and from an independent professional supervisor. She also participated in training and professional development workshops to assist in performance of her role. She has regular Skype meetings with the Community Care Support Group, also separately with Martina and Jacinta (CHAMPION), and phone contact with the TSA Office in Melbourne, when needed. She also assists with coordinating funeral services by liaising with bereaved families.

## Services and Ceremonies

The TSA Elders once again gave generously of their time and energy to prepare and deliver thought-provoking services that nourish the Templer spirit. Ten religious services were held this year, with our Sydney Elder, Ingrid Turner, conducting three. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of the Elders for their ongoing support, particularly those who travelled up from Melbourne to speak at our chapel.

# Sydney Community

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Our Advent, Christmas and Easter services were also well-attended. Several funeral services were held to commemorate the lives of departed members.

## Social Events and Functions

In July 2016 the Sydney Community held its third winter *Lieder* concert, with a sold-out performance and over 45 in attendance. This German cultural event, our best-attended function for the year, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It is to be held again in August 2017 and will be advertised to the broader community.

Other events included our annual family picnic day, held in May with a Mother's Day themed service followed by a German-flavoured community lunch, and the Christmas party with ABC studio visit, which has become a popular attraction.

The Seniors' Group is still meeting on a monthly basis. After consultation, there are now two monthly visits to Blacktown, with the third month held at Wentworthville. This group continues to provide a vital social connection that is enjoyed by all participants. In the past year there have been some new (younger) attendees; though not regular, they are attending when they can.

Seven ladies travelled to Melbourne for the Women's Retreat in August 2016; we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, spending the weekend either relaxing or joining the stimulating activities organised by Martina and Jan.

Several families attended the Family Camp, now held over Christmas-New Year every second year, and one member travelled to Victoria for the

# Sydney Community

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Men's Advance in April. All of these events helped to maintain the social connections between Melbourne and Sydney Templers and friends.

## Property Management

Our property and maintenance budget is managed centrally by the Property Management FG in Melbourne. This includes utilities, cleaning, lawn mowing/gardening, safety inspections and any repairs. Peter Leszinsky and John Maddock coordinated quotes and supervised maintenance work for us. We thank them both for their dedication and time. Cleaning of the church by Jacob Withey is continuing.

The hall now has an alarm fitted, and there is a key safe to allow access for visitors and other groups. Please contact the Melbourne Office or any of the Sydney Community FG members if you require access.

A new mahogany lectern for the chapel has been commissioned and is currently under construction by the Men's Shed in Riverstone.

A major achievement this year was the refurbishment of the bathrooms, which have been upgraded to allow wheelchair and pram access. The roof leak in the back hall was also repaired and the room repainted.

We have been gradually opening up our facility to other aligned users; so far this has gone smoothly and we hope to extend this opportunity to other suitable community groups over the coming year. Primary Ethics use the hall approximately once a month and the Tongan Free Church twice per month. Bookings can be made via the TSA Office or through one of the FG members.

# Sydney Community

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We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Property Management FG in bringing our 100-year-old Meadowbank facility up to modern safety standards and keeping it in good condition.

## **Faith Facilitator position**

We hope to announce the appointment of a Faith Facilitator in the coming months. This will be a salaried position supporting the Sydney Community's spiritual and communal life, building participation in faith-based and social activities across all ages, with a view to increasing active interest in the Sydney Templer Community. We are optimistic that this will be the start of a new and exciting phase in the growth and development of the TSA.

## **Conclusion**

It has been another challenging, but rewarding year for the Sydney Community and the FG. Thank you to all our loyal members, friends and willing volunteers – and, not least, the TSA Office staff – for your ongoing support.

**Emmy Hoffmann**

# Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged

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## FROM THE CEO

In the increasingly competitive ageing sector, consumers are looking for tailored services with a personalised and seamless experience in an environment where they feel respected and engaged. Customer experience is now a fundamental business issue and aged care providers must shift their mindsets in order to grow and survive in the 'age of the customer'.

I am pleased to report that TTHA has had another successful year, continuing to deliver strong clinical and financial results despite the impact of recent reforms in the aged care sector. Noteworthy achievements are:

### Residential Care

- TTHA achieved Accreditation in August 2016 for another three years, meeting all 44 outcomes. The accreditation process, along with announced visits, ensures the Home continues to operate within the quality guidelines and that resident care is carried out with dignity and contemporary nursing. Going forward, a new Accreditation focus will be the 'Consumer Experience'.
- Our occupancy has remained close to 100%.
- We implemented a new Client Liaison role that focuses on customer service and aims to streamline communication between the staff and our residential and retirement living residents and their families.
- The International Volunteer program continued with the recent change

# Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged

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over of last and this year's group from Germany.

- Our vibrant local volunteers continued to play an essential role in our Home. Many are from our ILUs and their involvement and contributions are very much appreciated.
- We implemented a Cultural Sub-committee to oversee the lifestyle program and the seasonal menu. This Sub-committee focuses on culturally-diverse programs, not only for our core German culture, but for the diversity of cultures present in our Home.
- Thanks to an extremely generous bequest from the late Ursula Heller, TTHA purchased a new 14-seater bus with hydraulic hoist, allowing non-ambulant residents to leave the home on outings. TTHA now runs resident bus outings three times a week. These are well attended and give residents much enjoyment.
- We purchased a new clinical system, *iCare*, considered to be one of the best clinical IT systems in the industry. *iCare* will enable TTHA to greatly improve operational efficiency, staff productivity and the delivery of care services and will be implemented by the end of this calendar year.

## Community Care

- Along with changing consumer expectations, TTHA faces regulatory change as the Home Care reforms drive a more customer-led environment. Since February 2017, the days of block funding and a guaranteed revenue stream are over and TTHA must compete in an open market for the hearts

# Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged

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and minds of consumers by constantly delivering excellent service at a reasonable price.

- The Social Support Group operated four days a week, providing social interaction, adventure and independence to house-bound Germans in the community.

## Retirement Living (ILUs)

- Our retirement living remains an important part of our community with 49 units/apartments. The ILU residents represent an important link to our Templer and German communities.
- Occupancy remains at 100% with strong demand for our units.

## Marketing and branding particularly important for Community Care

- TTHA launched *Care That Speaks to You*, our new brand awareness campaign. We overhauled our marketing collateral and communication strategies to reflect this. With increasingly active competitor marketing activity, and referrers and consumers likely to be receiving an overload of provider approaches, we felt that defining a unique identity was important for our brand recognition. TTHA has long cared for Victorians from diverse cultural backgrounds. We wanted to retain this historical community heritage, while developing a contemporary brand to reach more consumers and to encourage advocacy among referrers. *Care That Speaks to You* embraces this.

# Tabulam & Templar Homes for the Aged

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- Through brand workshops, and customer research, it was clear that TTHA's competitive advantage lay in its ability to listen to and understand the needs of customers who are diverse in language and culture. A new value proposition and tagline was developed to communicate – clearly and precisely – why a customer should choose TTHA.
- We set strategies and processes in place to give TTHA more of a presence in the marketplace, on social media platforms (such as Instagram, Facebook), radio and locally at clubs and shopping centres and through an update to our website.
- We now operate in an open market. Consumers have choice of provider, so we ask you to like our social media pages and share your story with others. Word of mouth is the most powerful marketing tool out there and we encourage you to TALK about us!

## Building and Developments

- TTHA completed its Strategic Plan for the 2016-2019 period. The Strategic Plan focuses on six key areas of the business to deliver long-term, financially-sustainable results and to continue to attract customers from German and all European backgrounds – or anyone that appreciates the European way of life. We continue to progress to plan.
- The detailed design of our planned new building is progressing and is on schedule. The new building will have 54 beds, all single rooms with private ensembles, and we expect construction to commence early in 2018.

# Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged

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- TTHA's most valuable asset is its dedicated staff. No better display of this was during the recent Influenza and Gastro lockdown, through which our staff worked double shifts under difficult circumstances to maintain the care of our residents. Many became ill themselves. This viral outbreak hit dozens of aged care facilities in Melbourne, Sydney and even Queensland. Our staff has been thanked directly, but I take this opportunity to publicly recognise and thank them.
- The Christmas Market again was a huge success. It was supported by many local businesses and is truly a wonderful way to showcase TTHA and our German heritage.
- The balcony extension soon to be completed for the café will provide more room and an opportunity to enjoy the sun and outdoors with a fresh cup of coffee and cake.
- The Warrina courtyard was upgraded – with a new bird aviary purchased and new furniture donated by the Templer Craft ladies – and the landscaping improved to make the area walking frame friendly.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to our Chair, Paul English, and our active, dedicated Board. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our members and our volunteers, our incredibly generous donors and the new management team and staff at every level in the organisation – you are integral to our ongoing success.

# Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged

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Finally, a special mention must go to our residents and their families. It is a privilege to be able to spend time with you and make a difference to your lives, and I look forward to another year with many exciting developments underway.

**Eva Simo**

# Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

TTHA provides services in four main areas: Independent Living, Residential Aged Care, Home Care and Respite. We operate for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year (plus an extra day every 4 years!!). It is a big job and carries tremendous responsibility. We operate in an environment in which the Federal Government continually constrains our revenue and our costs only go one way, and that is up. Long term sustainability requires continuous effort and improvement. For a stand-alone mid-sized facility such as TTHA, this means we need an excellent reputation, financial strength and strong community links. This is achieved through:

- providing contemporary care that meets the aged care quality standards;
- modern and market-conforming facilities;
- a variety of nutritious and tasty food;
- a culturally diverse lifestyle program that engages our residents to live a meaningful and purposeful life;
- revenue growth and surpluses to reinvest back into our community;
- governance and financial control to minimise risks;
- effective documentation and record keeping;
- process efficiency and productivity; and last, but not least
- community support and involvement, in particular from the TSA and the AGWS.

Protection of our Templer heritage and German culture is critical and provides TTHA with a competitive advantage. Nevertheless, TTHA must remain relevant to the community in general to ensure our Home is always fully occupied.

# Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged

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The wellbeing of our residents across our four service areas is of paramount importance. Wellbeing includes the physical and emotional health, safety and essence (or spirits) of our residents. Ideally, this phase of our residents' lives should be active, stimulating, entertaining and enjoyable within, of course, the physical and cognitive constraints residents may have. The TTHA Board and Management are passionate about this, and over the past year have implemented three Board Sub-committees (chaired by Board members and reporting to the Board on a monthly basis) to focus on core competencies. The Sub-committees are:

1. **Clinical** chaired by Irene Kemper, with participants including the Director of Nursing (DON) and other clinical staff;
2. **Cultural** chaired by Uschi Halbländer, with participants including residents, clinical staff, Activities Manager and the Head Chef;
3. **Buildings and Grounds** chaired by Dieter Ruff, with participants including the CEO, Chairman, DON and Maintenance Manager.

Each Sub-committee has a Charter that defines its purpose and scope.

This year we have made a number of changes in Management, as it is imperative to have a team aligned to our values and capable of providing the leadership, motivation, mentoring and coaching to our 200+ permanent, part-time and casual employees. It is pleasing that we are now stable in this regard, having significantly strengthened our clinical care management, activities, finance and kitchen.

# Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged

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You may have noticed some changes occurring to the TTHA facilities and operations:

- We are well advanced in extending the deck of the café to more than double its capacity and to provide an enhanced service. The 'new' café will be ready for the warmer weather and will be open more often and for longer;
- We have set up a theatre in the Tabulam building that will provide regular movies on a large LED screen, with surround sound and comfortable seating. We are collecting an extensive library of German and English movies to be catalogued and stored on a hard drive for regular screening;
- We have purchased a new 14-seater bus with pneumatic wheel chair access to provide regular and interesting excursions for residents;
- Our plans to build a new 54-room wing are well progressed. The detailed design is approximately half complete and we expect to tender the construction project and award a contract close to Christmas, with construction to commence early in 2018;
- In conjunction with the new building, we are investigating the possibility of a 'Day Centre', where carers can themselves get a break from their 24/7 job by dropping their loved-one off into care for the daytime hours;
- We have installed large scenery murals in Tabulam to provide a calming and pleasing environment for our dementia residents;

# Tabulam & Templar Homes for the Aged

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- The courtyard and aviary have been renovated and now provide a comfortable and pleasant outdoor space to relax and enjoy;
- A 'Templar Wall' has been installed opposite the lifts to honour our Templar heritage and a Templar theme day ran with great attendance;
- We have farewelled this year's International Volunteers and welcomed the new group (5 young men and 4 young women) in early August.
- We have held 'Food Forums' to gather input from residents, families and staff on the meals residents would prefer. We are progressively introducing a more 'German/Continental' menu and will continue to develop this;
- A new position to coordinate and liaise with residents and their families has been introduced. The role of Resident Liaison Manager has been temporarily filled by Jenny Peacock until it can be filled permanently. This position is mandated to be German-speaking and will take a proactive role with admissions, settling in and ongoing communication with both Independent Living and Residential Aged Care residents and their families. The role will coordinate with the relevant staff to ensure the easiest entry to and stay at TTHA.

Our plans to purchase the land upon which TTHA resides from the TSA have been put on hold. The terms and conditions required by the TSA would have put undue strain on our finances at the time of peak financial demand associated with the building project, so the TTHA Board decided it was not in the Home's best interest to proceed at this time. The land purchase will

# Tabulam & Templer Homes for the Aged

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be re-examined once the new building is complete. In the meantime, TTHA will pay TSA rent for the land.

2017/2018 will continue to be a demanding and challenging time for TTHA. The building project is scheduled to commence in January 2018 and construction will take about 18 months. Following this, several areas of the existing facility will be renovated and re-purposed. It is an exciting time, and our residents and staff will ultimately be the beneficiaries of the modernisation of TTHA. Important to note is that the new wing will have little impact on existing facilities during construction. We will continue to make incremental improvements to the existing buildings to support the current needs of residents and staff.

We thank the IV group that returned to Germany in early August after 10 months with us, the community volunteers who provide integral assistance to the Home, the dedicated staff and, last but not least, the community for its ongoing support.

**Paul English**

# Tempelgesellschaft in Deutschland (TGD)

Bericht des Gebiets- und Gemeindeleiters über die Entwicklung der Tempelgesellschaft in Deutschland e.V. seit der Mitgliederversammlung am 8. Oktober 2016

Der Gemeindebetrieb verlief im Berichtszeitraum weiterhin in den gewohnten Bahnen:

1. Der Ältestenkreis, bestehend aus Dr. Brigitte Hoffmann, Peter Lange, Wolfgang Blaich sowie Karin und Jörg Klingbeil, trifft sich monatlich, um die Gottesdienste und den Sprecherdienst zu organisieren. Der monatliche Turnus mit zwei Gottesdiensten, Saalgottesdienst um 15.00 Uhr und Morgenfeier um 10.30 Uhr, konnte im Wesentlichen aufrechterhalten werden, von der Urlaubszeit abgesehen. Das gemeinsame Mittagessen nach der Morgenfeier findet weiterhin guten Zuspruch. Die durchschnittliche Teilnehmerzahl bei den Gottesdiensten liegt bei rund 15 Personen; neue Teilnehmer sind aber selten. Immerhin kommen zu den "Großveranstaltungen" Tempelgründungstag, Dankfest und Weihnachtsfeier in der Regel weitaus mehr Teilnehmer. Sehr beliebt ist weiterhin die Agape-Feier am Gründonnerstag. Verglichen mit den früheren Jahren war die Resonanz bei der Weihnachtsfeier 2016 und beim Tempelgründungstag 2017 eher bescheiden; es blieben von den aufgestellten ca. 60 Stühlen noch einige leer.

Der Ältestenkreis bereitet auch das jährliche Gemeindegemeinschaftsseminar vor, das in der Regel im Frühjahr, seit einigen Jahren auf dem Schönblick bei Schwäbisch Gmünd, stattfindet. An dem diesjährigen Seminar (5.-7. Mai 2017) zum Thema „Was bedeutet mir (meine) Religion?“ haben 21 Mitglieder

# Tempelgesellschaft in Deutschland (TGD)

und Gäste teilgenommen; ich habe darüber in der Juni-Ausgabe der *Warte* berichtet.

Eine wichtige, aber zeitraubende Aufgabe des Ältestenkreises ist die redaktionelle Arbeit an der „*Warte*“, für die eigene Beiträge erstellt oder ggf. Artikel von Fremdautoren verwendet werden (zum Beispiel aus 'Publik-Forum'). Bisher konnte ein monatlicher Erscheinungsturnus (mit Ausnahme der Juli/August-Ausgabe) und der Umfang von jeweils 16-20 Seiten durchgehalten werden. Die Arbeit ist nicht immer leicht, weil sie sich auf wenige Schultern verteilt und die Erscheinungstermine ein enges zeitliches Korsett bilden. Zum Glück wird die Erstellung der Beiträge ebenso wie das Layout (durch Wolfgang Struve in Eberbach bei Heidelberg) und die Zusammenarbeit mit der Druckerei in Ostfildern durch Computertechnik und E-Mail-Verkehr mittlerweile sehr erleichtert.

Ein Konfirmandenunterricht fand auch 2017 mangels Nachfrage leider nicht statt.

Einige Mitglieder des Ältestenkreises engagieren sich im Bund für Freies Christentum, dem die Tempelgesellschaft als korporatives Mitglied angehört und dessen Geschäftsstelle (im Büro der TGD) von Karin Klingbeil geleitet wird. Die diesjährige Jahrestagung des Bundes findet am 22.-24. September 2017 in den Räumen der Remberti-Gemeinde in Bremen statt; der Titel „*Hier stehen wir – können wir auch anders? Reformation und Aufklärung: Impulse für den Gottesdienst*“ nimmt Bezug auf das diesjährige Reformationsjubiläum. An der Tagung nehmen auch vier Mitglieder des Ältestenkreises teil. Drei jährliche Regionaltreffen des Bundes im Raum

# Tempelgesellschaft in Deutschland (TGD)

Stuttgart finden im Gemeindehaus statt; darüber hinaus trifft sich etwa viermal im Jahr ein „Freier theologischer Arbeitskreis“ des Bundes zum Gedankenaustausch in Privaträumen der Teilnehmer.

2. Die Gebietsleitung der Tempelgesellschaft, bestehend aus Ludwig Beilharz, Jürgen Henker, Karin und Jörg Klingbeil, Kerstin Kloß, Jörg Struve und Sven Wessner, trifft sich in etwa zweimonatlichem Abstand, um vor allem organisatorische Angelegenheiten, Baumaßnahmen am Gemeindehaus, Investitionen, Friedhofsangelegenheiten, Jugendarbeit und Gemeindeveranstaltungen zu besprechen. Die Protokolle gehen auch der TSA zu.

3. Die Jugendarbeit lief im Berichtszeitraum weiterhin nur auf Sparflamme. Erfreulicherweise fand aber mal wieder ein Sommerferienlager vom 2.-12. August 2017 in der Jugendherberge Freiburg statt – leider mit nur wenigen, nämlich sechs Kindern bzw. Jugendlichen. Der Bericht von Hanna Thaler, die zusammen mit einer Freundin als Betreuerin mitging, erscheint in der September-Warte.

4. Als Gemeindeveranstaltungen im Berichtszeitraum können (natürlich außer Gottesdiensten, Dankfest, Tempelgründungstag usw.) im Grunde genommen nur die beiden Konzerten mit Heloise Palmer am 22. Oktober 2016 und am 8. April 2017 genannt werden. Eine bereits geplante Gemeindefreizeit im Mai 2017 in der Jugendherberge Schwäbisch Hall kam mangels Nachfrage nicht zustande. Die Durchführung von Veranstaltungen im Gemeindehaus wurde im Frühjahr 2017 allerdings auch durch die Sanierung des Clubraums erschwert; hier waren durch Eigenleistungen zudem erhebliche Personalkapazitäten gebunden.

# Tempelgesellschaft in Deutschland (TGD)

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5. Der Bastelkreis unter Leitung von Rumi Hornung hat sich auch im Berichtszeitraum durchschnittlich einmal im Monat getroffen, um seine kunsthandwerklichen Produkte für die Basare im Gemeindehaus (am Tempelgründungstag und beim Dankfest) sowie insbesondere für den Degerlocher Nikolausmarkt herzustellen. Am 3. Dezember 2016 wurde dort der – vor allem von Ingrid Lange – liebevoll geschmückte Stand zum wiederholten Mal mit dem ersten Preis ausgezeichnet. Die von Rainer Kloß gebaute neue Holzhütte hat sich erneut bestens bewährt.

6. Die sehr verdienstvolle Tätigkeit von Peter Lange im Archiv kann als bekannt vorausgesetzt werden. Seit Anfang 2017 habe ich offiziell die Leitung des Archivs übernommen; Peter steht mir aber weiterhin mit Rat und Tat zur Seite und wird von Historikern und Familienforschern aus dem In- und Ausland kontaktiert. Mittlerweile wurde auch die EDV-Ausstattung des Archivs (übrigens auch die im Verwaltungsbüro) erneuert; das Archiv verfügt nun auch über eine eigene E-Mail-Adresse.

7. Die Mitgliederzahl hat im Berichtszeitraum leider weiter abgenommen: Seit dem letztjährigen Bericht an die TSA bzw. seit der Mitgliederversammlung am 8. Oktober 2016 bis heute ist ein Mitglied ausgetreten (Claudia Mutschlechner im Februar 2017); ein Mitglied ist verstorben (Ilse Fast am 12. Januar 2017 im Alter von 92 Jahren). Die TGD weist somit derzeit einen Stand von 121 Mitgliedern auf.

**Jörg Klingbeil**

# Temple Society Australia Limited

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The Directors of TSAL met at six Board meetings during the year. Interstate Director Peter Leszinsky participated at these meetings via conference telephone. John Maddock, TSA Administration Manager, also attended all Board meetings in his capacity as Company Secretary.

At the 2016 AGM (with Regional Council as members) Peter Leszinsky and Wolfgang Frank were re-elected for 3-year terms. In addition the appointment of Marcus English (effective 2 August 2016) to replace Hermann Sawatzky (resigned early 2016) until the AGM in 2017 was ratified.

Given three (out of six) existing Directors have each served for in excess of 15 years, the Board has been considering additional Directors to facilitate succession planning. As a result, Jevan Bouzo was appointed as an additional Director at the AGM for a 3-year term.

A further Director appointment (increasing to eight Directors) is being pursued in the short term.

The Directors re-elected Wolfgang Frank as Chairman and Peter Leszinsky as Vice-Chairman. Other Directors were Mark Herrmann, Dietmar Jürgensen and Paul English.

After six years as Chairman, I have advised both Regional Council and the TSAL Directors of my intention to step down as Chairman, following the 2017 AGM. I will continue as a Director until my term expires in 2019.

As Chairman of TSAL, I also attended Regional Council meetings held monthly during the year and participated in the TSA sub-committee dealing with TTHA land.

# Temple Society Australia Limited

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## Investment Portfolio

The financial markets, whilst evidencing frequent fluctuations in a tight trading range, produced their best performance in two years. The markets rose following the election in November 2016 of US President Trump based on his promises of stimulating fiscal policy and economic growth.

The ASX200 (Australian share market benchmark) index increased from 5233 as at 1 June 2016 to 5721 as at 30 June 2017, a 9.4% increase. This follows a decline of 4% in 2015/2016 and a 1.2% increase in 2014/2015.

As at 30 June 2017, our share portfolio had a market value of \$2.567m, whilst the total investment portfolio (cash, shares, income securities, commercial and residential property, excluding TSA community assets) totalled \$7.182m. The latter has increased by \$0.630m over the year through the reasons detailed below:

### **1. Sale of Isabella St Moorabbin factory**

This property had been owned since 1984 and was occupied by a long-standing tenant, Austech. The lease was due in August 2016 and we received notification from the lessee of their intention to vacate the property. Our managing agent Nixon Industrial inspected the property and advised a value of \$800-880,000 and rental of \$54-56,000 pa, which was below the existing rental level.

Further, refurbishment of the property (especially the front office) would be required to re-lease the property.

# Temple Society Australia Limited

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Given the property's age, necessary refurbishment and search for a new tenant, a decision was taken to sell the property on a vacant possession basis via auction on 12 September 2016. With strong demand and spirited bidding by two parties the property sold for \$1,175,000 some \$375,000 over our reserve and \$405,000 above the book value.

## **2. Share portfolio**

The share portfolio increased in value by \$233,000 or 10.01% (excluding disposals) over the year, slightly ahead of the ASX200 index increase of 9.4%. The portfolio is currently generating a return of 4.75% pa pre franking credits. Existing NAB Income Securities were mandatorily called by NAB and Santos shares were sold, given concerns regarding the company's high debt levels and its exposure to the oil price.

With our high cash holding returning a low yield, new investment opportunities generating yields of 4-5% excluding franking credits were investigated. Investments in three Listed Investment Companies were made to diversify our exposure across a larger portfolio of companies and industries.

## **3. TTHA rent**

In terms of the interim agreement between TTHA and TSAL regarding the TTHA land, rent of \$300,000 was received for the 2016/2017 financial year. Pending finalisation of a new lease, the rent will increase to \$450,000 in the current year.

# Temple Society Australia Limited

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With interest rates (Reserve Bank Cash Rate) declining to an all-time low of 1.50% pa, there has been a decrease in our interest income, as maturing deposits were re-invested at lower interest rates. The current interest rate environment is expected to continue into next year, given low inflation and the wages growth outlook, both in Australia and globally.

## Commercial Property

The Board has been looking for a new investment in the industrial sector, however, very few properties meet our investment criteria, and those available are aggressively sought by investors and often privately sold.

Accordingly, it is proposed to now look at Unlisted Funds/syndicates to gain a direct exposure to this sector.

As a revaluation of the property portfolio was undertaken during 2012/2013 there has been no change to existing valuations of our community assets.

## Financials

For the 2017/2018 financial year, Regional Council has approved a budget deficit of \$554,000 (excluding TTHA rental income), which compares to a budget deficit of \$398,000 last year. Employee salaries account for 52% of expenses, with new projects a further 17%. Major non-operational costs included in the current budget are: drainage works around the Chapel, roof replacement at Bayswater hall/bowling alley, new projector for Chapel and roof repairs at Bentleigh Office.

# Temple Society Australia Limited

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Whilst ongoing deficits of this magnitude are not sustainable at current income levels, it is also important that our ageing facilities continue to be maintained to a reasonable standard.

Sincere thanks also go to my fellow honorary Directors and John Maddock for their professionalism, dedication and continuing support in our efforts to manage the TSA's financial matters and affairs responsibly and in the best interests of TSA and its members.

**Wolfgang Frank**  
**Chairman**

# Welfare

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Since the last AGM the Focus Group has consisted of Lisa Beilharz, Ursula Paton, Ashleigh Rutowicz and Suzy Ware (as elected members) and Vanora Jürgensen (as a co-opted member). Because part of our task is to oversee the Community Care Worker, Martina Eaton has been attending our meetings, if not in person, then on Skype. At the recent Structure Review Meeting, Regional Council agreed to the Focus Group continuing to operate as previously, but with five (rather than six) members, which is convenient as we were having trouble finding another person to join.

CHAMPION has continued to grow this year. Around 160 people attend per month. Some just call in to visit and others make donations. Extra storage and an additional fridge and freezer were required. The CHAMPION Interest Group was able to attract many donations for a silent auction at *Sommerfest*, raising over \$2500. Another \$120 was raised by selling hot chocolate at *Sonnwendfeier*. The CHAMPION Interest Group – which consists of Jacinta Aulsebrook, Martina Eaton, Susi Richter, Hayley Verhagen and Anne Wied – continues to work hard to raise funds. Jacinta continues as CHAMPION Coordinator and Martina makes sure everything keeps running as it should. Writing up the Policies and Procedures for CHAMPION and its volunteers remains a work in progress, with Martina having recently applied for a Knox Council grant to pay for assistance with this.

The Focus Group ran a number of events and activities in the year to the end of June. These have included talks on financial arrangements around entering aged care, a tree planting day, a forum on family violence and a movie night when the film *Eat, Pray, Love* was shown. We held a BBQ at Bentleigh in September, which raised around \$300 for Outback Services, and Martina and Ursula each drove a busload of participants to Maldon for

# Welfare

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a shopping spree in late November. Local traders gave discounts to people who had registered to participate, and the money raised went to the local primary school.

Perhaps we were a bit ambitious in the number and nature of the events we organised last year. We have now decided to focus more on our core objectives: overseeing Martina's work, acting as a sounding board for new initiatives she is considering to implement and running one or two information forums on welfare-related topics each year.

**Ursula Paton**

# Youth

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Other than supporting the Community Youth Coordinator and overseeing the general youth program, the Focus Group has spent most of the second half of this financial year engaged in seeking a replacement for Susi Richter. Susi had flagged her intention to retire by the end of 2017 and, coupled with a new Events Management role, the recruitment process began. Cath Shelley emerged as the successful candidate and we wish her well in the newly-created Youth & Activities Coordinator position. Susi will be suitably farewelled later in the year.

## Youth Activities

There have been over twenty events comprising the youth program over the last 12 months, with some of the highlights and best-attended activities being:

- Summercamp (January) – with twenty kids booked in and lots of activities.
- Mt Buller Youth Camp (April) – this was our first camp for the older confirmed kids since 2010 and was attended by most of the 2015 group.
- Wilsons Prom Confirmation Camp (July) – from the newly confirmed 2017 group nearly all attended and all would love to have stayed longer!
- Two Games nights (with pizza) having over twenty kids attending each time.
- *Sommerfest* – with strong participation and plenty of young helpers for all stalls.
- Small group activities – Tree Climbing and Comedy Festival were popular, although attendances were low.

# Youth

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The 2017 confirmation group has also been very keenly participating in all activities this year, including a sleepover weekend and their camp in July. Although this group is keen to remain actively involved, the movement of another group of confirmands out of the younger teenage and youth activities has left quite a gap in numbers in our younger age bracket.

A Youth Connect dinner for the 2013, 2015 and 2017 confirmation groups is planned, and we are thereby hoping to create some momentum in supporting them to remain connected and become more involved with the TSA and its wider activities. We received a very generous donation towards this goal from Elisabeth Wagner, which is acknowledged and we are especially grateful for!

Looking back, there are a few points of interest and learning that are being taken into account as we move forward:

- Around a third of all activities in the 2016/2017 year were cancelled due to lack of numbers. Some of the reasons for this were: longer transport time, extended duration of activity (whole day or whole night) and wide age range.
- We have had some great activity suggestions from kids who attended the last pizza night; these ideas will be pursued in the second half of 2017.
- The confirmation group of 2017 is strong and has requested another Youth Camp to be run next summer (January 2018).

For the remainder of 2017, our strong focus will be on supporting the three most recent confirmation groups, as well as increasing the awareness of, and participation in, our youth programs in the wider community.

# Youth

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## Templer Playgroup (by Sharon Nied – Playgroup Coordinator)

2017 has seen varying numbers at Playgroup, from 2-3 families each week up to our largest group of 16 children and 12 adults. Our age range this year has been from newborns to children aged five.

The children have enjoyed the various activities offered each week and are growing and learning from each other every day. Many strong friendships are being formed by both children and parents. Our activities this year have included the seasons – with our favourite being autumn, due to the abundance of falling leaves in the playground, playdough, coloured rice, puzzles, construction, cars and, of course, ever-popular craft.

We have a fantastic group and everyone enjoys each other's company, which often spills into socialising outside of Playgroup. We have just linked up with TTHA again and are planning regular visits to the Home residents.

**Playgroup will be celebrating its 35th Anniversary on Sunday 22nd October this year. Please join us for a Mad Hatters Tea Party, with lots of activities for all ages, as well as a craft project to commemorate this special occasion. It would be great to have all past and present Playgroup families, as well as the wider community, along to help celebrate our birthday.**

**James Kemper, Susi Richter and Cath Shelley**

# Focus Group Members

*Each year, the Temple Society Australia is supported by dedicated Focus and Interest Group members, whose expertise, commitment and enthusiasm touch every aspect of Templer community life.*

*We are immensely grateful for their invaluable contribution and would like to thank them for their ongoing support, collaboration and know-how.*

## COMMUNICATION & PROMOTION

### **Marcus Weber (Leader)**

Kirsten Lubitz (retired)

Paul Blaich

Renate Beilharz

Angela Woodburn  
(Support Worker)

# Focus Group Members

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## ELDERS

**Renate Weber (Leader)**

**Renate Beilharz (Leader)**

Annette Wagner-Hesse

Annie Beilharz

Christa Lingham

Christine Ruff

Geoff McCallum

Harald Ruff

Hennig Imberger

Hermann Ralph Uhlherr

Herta Uhlherr

Ingrid Turner

Irene Bouzo

Jessica Blackwell

Mark Herrmann

Peter Uhlherr

Theo Richter

Ulrich Asenstorfer

## HERITAGE & CULTURE

**Doris Frank (Leader)**

Dot Ware

Edith Riordan

# Focus Group Members

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## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### **Manfred Weller (Leader)**

John Maddock  
Peter Leszinsky  
Peter Ware  
Tony Beilharz  
Winfried Beilharz

## SOCIAL & RECREATION

### **Heinz Wagner (Leader)**

Jon Breisch  
Lis Wennagel  
Mieka Decker

# Focus Group Members

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## SYDNEY COMMUNITY

### **Emmy Hoffmann (Leader)**

Anneliese Hoffmann  
Bev Leszinsky  
Ingrid Turner  
Kirrily Simmer  
Peter Leszinsky

Jan Johnson (Support Worker)

## TEMPLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA LIMITED

### **Wolfgang Frank (Chairman)**

**Peter Leszinsky  
(Vice-Chairman)**

Dietmar Jürgensen  
Jevan Bouzo  
Marcus English  
Mark Herrmann  
Paul English

John Maddock  
(Company Secretary)

# Focus Group Members

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## WELFARE

### **Ursula Paton (Leader)**

Annie Beilharz (retired)

Ashleigh Rutowicz

Lisa Beilharz

Moni Imberger (retired)

Suzy Ware

Vanora Jürgensen

Martina Eaton

(Community Care Worker)

## YOUTH

### **James Kemper (Leader)**

Beate Kuerschner

Karyn Campbell

Sven Stefanac

Susi Richter

(Community Youth Coordinator)



