INTRODUCTION:
It gives me much pleasure to present the Annual Report for Toc H Australia for the year ended 30th September, 2010 and I would like to begin by saying ‘Thank You’ to everyone for all that has been done over the past twelve months to ensure that our great Movement has continued to give so much to so many people in many parts of our country. This report will highlight just what has been done and the rich variety of projects which have been undertaken. And again I would like to use the words of Mother Teresa which remind us just how important it is to do things in the right spirit and to ensure that we get our priorities right and that they are carefully considered. She said:

“We can do no great things – only small things with great love……..nothing is small for God for He is Almighty and therefore each one of our actions done with and through Jesus Christ is a great success.”

Toc H was built on the rich variety of personal relationships which developed, first of all in Talbot House during World War I, and afterwards in the corporate life of Toc H Groups and Branches which were formed around the world. And as has so often been stressed the first and the most important aim of Toc H is to provide FELLOWSHIP for its members who will, in turn, extend this spirit of fellowship to those around them and help out whenever the opportunity arises. We are not in the business of doing great things simply to keep up with trends in our world, neither are we trying to compete with other organisations which rely so much on corporate support for their existence. The real work of Toc H is all bound up with doing small things with great love and, wherever possible, to help others lead worthwhile and meaningful lives and to reach their full potential.

A friendly greeting
A firm handshake
A warm welcome
A word of encouragement
A willingness to:

- Give of our time
- Talk to people
- Be fair-minded
- Listen to people
- Share other people’s joys and sorrows
- Help someone through difficult times

These, and many more, are some of the ways we can live out the Aims and Objectives of
Toc H, and the interesting thing is that none of them require vast financial resources or complicated administrative structures to make them happen. Tubby’s method was simple, sometimes ridiculously simple, but it worked. It incorporated all of the things mentioned above. Is it reasonable to think that this method can work in the 21st century? My response is definitely – YES.

In the Order of Service for this year’s World Chain of Light (2010) the focus was on the Four Points of the Compass and throughout the Service each one of us was asked four challenging questions:

1. (To Love Widely) - ‘In our ordinary everyday life, how far-reaching is our love?’
2. (To Build Bravely) – ‘In our ordinary everyday life, where are we in this endeavour expected of us?’
3. (To Think Fairly) – ‘In our ordinary everyday life, how fair are we in our thoughts, words and deeds?’
4. (To Witness Humbly) – ‘In our ordinary everyday life, how humble are we in our witnessing?’

As we plan for 2011 it might do all of us good to think deeply about each one of these questions and before we come up with answers to read through the following statements about the ‘Spirit of Toc H’:

1. The Main Resolution
2. The Statement of Re-Affirmation
3. The Four Points of the Compass
4. The Toc H Prayer
5. The Mission Statement of Toc H Australia

2010 has been a year when there has been a lot of talk about ‘Strategic Plans’ and on reflection it would be true to say that they have driven a lot of Toc H thinking and activity. It would also be true to say that Toc H has touched the lives of hundreds of people throughout this country and overseas and in the next part of this Report it will be shown that there is much to support this statement.

TOC H AUSTRALIA – SOUTHERN REGION

A. The Southern Region Executive met regularly throughout 2010 and welcomed three new members – Christine Manning (Regional Chaplain); Chris Kelly and Sam Wood. Brian Robinson took over the responsibility of Public Officer
B. The 2009 World Chain of Light was well supported by Toc H members and friends. The Service was preceded by a barbecue. It was held in Adelaide and at Victor Harbor.
C. Three Toc H members attended the Governor’s Garden Party at Government House – Michael Thomas, Christine Manning and David Hall.
D. New member, Ashley Triffett, was welcomed by Victor Harbor Branch and the following have accepted an invitation to become members – Christine and Paul Manning, Jack and Jackie Kornaat, Daniel Roberts and Patrick Korbel. This is most encouraging news. In Victoria, Stan McCredden, a former Toc H part-time
employee, will also be joining the Movement as a full member.

E. During the year three long-time members of Toc H passed away – Joyce Russell, Mona Verco and Pauline O’Daniel. They will be sadly missed.

F. Toc H Australia Southern Region website is up to date and functioning well. Special thanks to Daniel Roberts for his good work in this area.

G. Two sizeable Grants were received in 2010 - $15,004 from the community Benefit SA for a new roof on the main hall at the campsite and $1,623 - a Volunteers Grant- for a new computer and software and reimbursement for volunteers.

H. Fundraising involved – (i) A Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, Mile End, (ii) A Quiz Night and (iii) Participation in an excellent fundraising opportunity with the Australian Central Community Lottery. All were financially very successful.

Each of the above gives some indication of the support there is for Toc H Australia Southern Region as well as the present state of Toc H in this part of Australia.

Toc H has touched the lives of many people in South Australia through some very good projects and these were as follows:

A. SlowDown X – 37 volunteers, many from St Peter’s College and Prince Alfred College assisted at the annual Slowdown event to raise funds for a worthwhile Foundation, formerly the McGuinness McDermott Foundation.

B. Samaritan’s Purse and Vietnam Training Partnership – 113 Christmas Shoe Boxes were filled for distribution to children overseas and 14 Child Study Sponsorships were donated to children through ‘Youth With A Mission’ – Vietnam.

C. On ANZAC Day Graham Lambert represented Toc H and placed books on the steps of the War Memorial for Women’s and Children’s and the Repatriation Hospitals and Ashlyn Chin donated two children’s books.

D. The 2010 National Youth Leadership Course was held at St Mark’s College, North Adelaide and it was an outstanding success. The presenters were excellent. And there seventeen participants – seven from South Australia and the others from Western Australia and Queensland. The course was officially opened by Judge Mary Shaw and her address was very much appreciated by all present.

E. The Camping Program – During the year two very successful camps were held: the Summer Camp in December, 2009 and the Winter Camp in July. Special thanks are extended to Mostyn Clarke, the Camping director; Darrell and Amanda Hamlyn, cooks for the December Camp and Daniel Roberts and Patrick Korbel leaders at the Winter Camp. In addition there were a number of volunteer helpers. It is interesting and commendable that during the year over 200 days of respite care was provided through the Camping Program for ‘kids from disadvantaged and refugee backgrounds and their families’.

F. Toc H Youth Volunteer Action Team – There are five members of this team and during 2010 the main focus has been on – (i) Saints Toc H Action Group which has been very successful in all of its activities. Some forty students have been involved.. (ii) Activities at Prince Alfred College – Although two students were involved in the Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, Mile End, there remains a lot of work to be done before a strong Toc H presence is built up in the School. (iii) the Duke
of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme. Work will continue in 2011 to establish a stronger connection with the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme.

FINANCES: Overall in 2010 Toc H Australia southern Region has experienced a deficit of $8,018 and this is attributed to an increase in Insurance and Youth Leadership Training expenses.

THE EDWARDSTOWN HALL: This is managed by a Management Committee which meets approximately every two months. Five organisations use the Hall on a regular basis. The aim is to operate on a break-even basis so hire charges are quite low. There is some uncertainty about the future of the Hall as it is owned by the Marion Council and Toc H has been granted a licence to operate it for just three years.

TOC H BRANCHES: There are three active Toc H Branches in South Australia:

1. Victor Harbor – This is a very active Branch and in 2010 its members have been busy preparing for the Branch’s 75th Anniversary Celebrations, selling badges for the Diabetic Organisation and the Arthritis Foundation, helping the RSL and the RSPCA and filling boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Its members give strong support to the Toc H Camp at Victor Harbor and they are involved with the ANZAC Dawn Service and the Remembrance Day Service.

2. Prospect – This Branch meets regularly and in 2010 its projects have included Supper nights at Wallaroo Homes with entertainment and the showing of DVDs, a Bingo Night and filling boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Members helped Lois Hall at the Prospect Fair. There was a visit from the Regional Chaplain, Christine Manning, as well as a discussion and planning night.

3. Burnside – During 2010 the Branch has met seven times and its members have given strong support to Regional activities. Fundraisers have included the Burnside Mayor’s Film Night, Prospect Fair, and the sale of Hot Cross Buns. The Branch has supported the Youth Leadership Courses financially, and has also provided five sponsorships for the Child Study Assistance Program in Vietnam. Just on fifty shoe boxes were given to Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child and gifts were presented to the residents of Auldana Rest Home.

4. Way-Back is a small group of Toc H members who do not belong to a Branch but who meet about four times a year, enjoy each other’s company, share a meal together and keep alive the ‘Spirit of Toc H’.

The Toc H Australia Southern Region Chaplain has played an important role in 2010 by visiting the three active Toc H Branches and by contributing significantly to Regional Executive Meetings. She has spent time getting to know about Toc H and its rich history and she has found this to be very interesting. Her work as Chaplain will, in the future, be most valuable to Toc H.

TOC H AUSTRALIA - NORTHERN REGION
A. The Toc H Australia Northern Region Executive has met four times during 2010 and attendance at each meeting was good. There have been eight members of the Executive and they have come from a number of Branches. It is appropriate here to comment on the very good work done by Leslie Lovelock as Chairman of the Executive for several years until the end of 2009. He travelled down from Cairns for most of the meetings and his input was always very good. Thank you, Les, for your outstanding contribution both to Toc H in Queensland and to Toc H in Australia. Most Northern Region Meetings have been held at the Gaythorne RSL which has proved to be a suitable venue.

B. The World Chain of Light was held in three places in 2009 – Cairns, Bribie Island and Aspley (Brisbane). Over one hundred Toc H members and supporters of Toc H attended. In each centre there was a sit down dinner and this was followed by reading the Message and then the Service. Thanks to Father Peter Luton, who had a big input into the Order of Service for this occasion.

C. On Sunday, 6th June there was an Open Day at Government House in Brisbane to celebrate Fernberg’s 100 years as a vice-regal residence. Toc H was one of the organisations invited to have a stall in the grounds and this proved to be a very good avenue to let people know about our Movement. The Governor, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO was very interested in some of the photos in the display, going back to 1928 when a ‘Toc H Fayre’ was held in the same grounds which attracted some two thousand people.

D. During the year there have been twenty-three new members of Toc H in Queensland, eighteen at St Margaret’s and five new members were welcomed into the General Members Branch – Lorrie Miles, Lyndall Worthington-Wilmer, Jane Litzow, Kwieling Hidajit and Ronnie Hyu. There will be a number of new members in the Brisbane Branch in 2011. It must be said, however, that around twenty, mostly girls from St Margaret’s, are no longer members. Most have moved interstate or overseas or are very busy with University commitments.

E. Toc H Australia Northern Region has no Website of its own at the time of writing this Report, but plans are in hand to have one set up sometime in late January, 2011 after the Toc H Australia Website is up and running. Many thanks go to Owen Nichols, Dan Boucaut and Jason McNeil for all they are doing to bring this about.

F. There have been no fund raising activities for Toc H Northern Region in 2010. An Application for a Grant of around $50,000 from the Community Awards Funds will be made in early 2011 to be used to update Coungeau House on Bribie Island – two new bathrooms upstairs and new flooring for the front veranda. In addition there will need to be a special effort to fund raise for the Toc H Northern Region to cover the increase in insurance and to meet every day costs such as postage, stationery and printing.

G. Probably the most pressing need in the Northern Region is to find a new Director and this should be a top priority for 2011.

The above would indicate that 2010 has been a good one for Toc H in the Northern Region, but there needs to be careful planning for the year ahead to ensure that there is enough support for all that is happening at Branch/Group level. However, there have been many very worthwhile projects undertaken and completed in 2010, projects which
reflect the real ‘Spirit of Toc H’. Examples of these are as follows:

A. Cougeau House is the meeting place for a number of Charitable Organisations on Bribie Island as well as the Toc H Bribie Island Branch. A Book Exchange operates daily in the grounds of the house and this is quite well patronised. It contains several thousand books which cover a wide range of topics. The hall under the main building is the venue for a very worthwhile project focussing on the Elderly – “Old Friends Meet”. In 2010 there have been three gatherings of up to 100 elderly people at each one, people from Homes in the Bribie Island/Caboolture region, as well as people who are housebound because of age or illness. The hall is decorated and tables are set up for an afternoon tea. Entertainment is provided by local choirs. These gatherings provide many with the opportunity to renew acquaintances and to meet new friends.

B. The staging of concerts organised by Toc H members has been a real highlight in 2010 and hundreds of people have been entertained. The Annual Toc H Anzac Concert, held at the Kedron/Wavell RSL, was very well attended and music from the War Years – World Wars I and II – was provided by some twenty members of the National Servicemen’s Pipes and Drums Memorial Band and around thirty-five musicians in the Laurie Young Concert Band. This event is staged without any cost to Toc H and special thanks go to all members of the bands as well as the Management of the Kedron/Wavell RSL who make the Blue Pacific auditorium available for this concert. At the Bribie Island RSL in October, 2009 the Laurie Young Concert Band and the Gleemen Male Voice choir entertained a full auditorium with a wide variety of musical items. In the past year the League of Toc H Helpers performed on five occasions – (i) An Anzac Concert at John Wesley Gardens Home, (ii) A wedding at St Mark’s Anglican Church, (iii) A Sacred Concert at Emmaus Aged Care in Nundah, (iv) A Sacred Concert at Holy Cross Hostel in Wooloowin and (v) a Carols by Candlelight Concert at John Wesley Gardens Home. Members of the St Margaret’s Toc H Action Group have organised three concerts at The Residence - an old people’s home in Clayfield. At one concert two string quartets made up of some of the top music students in the school, performed, and bought a great deal of pleasure to residents at the Home. The setting for such a concert was perfect.

C. At the end of 2009 around 500 toys were collected by the St Margaret’s Toc H members and delivered to the children in the Royal Brisbane Children’s Hospital. And on Easter Sunday morning hundreds of Easter Eggs were taken by the girls and the Easter Bunny to the Hospital. Every child in the Hospital and every staff member received Easter Eggs.

D. Brisbane Branch and Brisbane Toc H Action Group members have developed a close link with the Childhood Cancer Support Group and in early December 2009 they played a major role in organising a Christmas Party for children who have been affected with cancer. Nick Dubravcic, who is a member of Brisbane Branch, serves on the Central Board of Management for the Childhood Cancer Support Group. He has been closely involved with CCS for a number of years as a volunteer through Toc H.

E. The Toc H Vietnam Project, which is conducted jointly with YWAM Vietnam, has been very well supported in 2010 and in excess of 100 children are receiving an
education from the funds raised here in Australia. Two Toc H members, Flora Nichols and Leanne Albury travelled to Vietnam to see some of the work that YWAM is doing and they met one of the girls sponsored under the Child Study Assistance Program and another wheelchair bound girl named Xuan who is sponsored by another Toc H member, Flora’s Mother, Mrs Dorothy Stoner. Flora and Leanne also visited Samaritan’s Purse Projects including the Red River School and the Blind School. Back in Australia, Flora and Leanne assist with packing shoeboxes at the Samaritan’s Purse warehouse. Thanks to Owen Nichols, who is a member of the Brisbane Toc H Action Group and the Northern Region Executive, for all the time and effort he has put into this very worthwhile overseas project.

F. The EKKA Outing in August, 2010 involved over 200 people – 180 children and approximately 40 helpers. The children came from the Royal Brisbane Children’s Hospital and from Homes and Shelters in the Brisbane/Ipswich area. Generous financial was given by Trevor and Gumdale Demolition and other support came from the following:

- Royal National Association
- Durkin Amusements
- Queensland Police Service
- IGA Supermarket
- Queensland Government
- The Showmen’s Guild
- Black and White Taxis
- Virgin Blue airlines
- Bunnings
- Cancer Council – Queensland

Dan Boucaut co-ordinated the event and he was supported by a competent and hard-working committee comprising – Jason McNeil, Owen Nichols, Kerry Scowcroft, Robert Clacher, Nyssa Clacher, Nick Dubravcic, Sharon McNeil, and Emma McConnell. The EKKA Outing has a powerful influence on the lives of hundreds of children and their families each year.

G. In October 2009 the Australian Red Cross Donormobile visited St Margaret’s School and over forty girls donated blood. This project was organised by the St Margaret’s Toc H Action Group members.

H. ANZAC Day -2010: Toc H members in Queensland are committed to keeping alive ‘The spirit of ANZAC’ and in 2010 this was demonstrated, first of all by a very well supported Midnight Service at the Shrine of Remembrance on ANZAC Eve. Seventy members of the Queensland University Music Society choir (QUMS) led the singing of the hymns; Australian Defence Force Army Cadets formed the Catafalque Party; Philippa Harvey Ross, from St Margaret’s School, played the Last Post and Father Peter Luton, Chaplain to the Toc H Australia Northern Region, officiated. On ANZAC Day twenty Toc H members took part in the main ANZAC Day Parade in Brisbane. Flags and banners were carried by Army Cadets. After the Parade those involved gathered at Gillhooleys Restaurant in the City for an ANZAC Day lunch. Wreaths were laid at Services in Cairns and on Bribie Island. On Remembrance Day Toc H is among the Official Organisations invited to lay a wreath during the Service at 11.00am at the Shrine of Remembrance. Toc H is also one of the Organisations represented on the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee which is chaired by the Queensland Premier.

TOC H BRANCHES:
1. Bribie Island Branch: This is a very active Branch and is well led by Bob Cleaver.
Meetings are held monthly at Coungeau House. Its members run ‘The Old Friends Meet’ gatherings and they take a keen interest in Coungeau House. Bob and his wife, Jan, are hosts to the many people who visit the House every week and they welcome Groups (those who are in need or are disabled) who stay in the House.

2. Northern Suburbs Branch: Meetings are held monthly, sometimes at the Kedron/Wavell RSL and sometimes in the Staff Room at St Dymna’s Primary School. Its members organise the Spring Concert at John Wesley Gardens Home and the World Chain of Light event at St Dymna’s Church Hall.

3. Brisbane Branch: This is now the oldest Toc H Branch in Queensland and in recent months it has attracted a number of new members. Its members are actively involved with the EKKA Outing and the Childhood Cancer support Group and its future looks very promising.

4. Brisbane Toc H Action Group: This is a very active Group and its members organise the EKKA Outing, help with Childhood Cancer Support Christmas Party, and serve on the Northern Region Area Executive. Owen Nichols is the National Youth Development Officer and runs the Youth Leadership Courses.

5. St Margaret’s Toc H Action Group: 2010 has been a very good year for this Group. Meetings are held weekly, the Ceremony of Light is taken in the School chapel at each meeting, two Quiet Days (Retreats) were held at Community House in the grounds of St Margaret’s School and three girls successfully completed a project in the Toc H Community Award Scheme.

6. St John’s Branch – Cairns: Membership in 2010 has remained static and the Branch had three young people at the Youth Leadership Course in Adelaide in 2010. Meetings are held monthly in the St John’s Parish Hall. This Branch has been ably led by Leslie Lovelock for many years and it has made many notable contributions to Cairns society.

7. Toc H League of Helpers: This Group is well led by Flora Nichols and besides staging concerts Flora and another member, Leanne Albury, visit residents at John Wesley Gardens Home monthly. They spent time on Christmas Day at the Home visiting people who did not have any family or friends with them.

8. General Members Branch: This Branch plays a very important role in the life of Toc H in Queensland. It has thirty-three members who are spread all over Queensland and is administered by a small group of members who live in Brisbane and who meet four times a year. Besides keeping the country members informed about Toc H the Brisbane Group members help out with various Toc H projects. This year the General Members Branch gave a $300 bursary to a Third Year Trainee Nurse as well as a suitably engraved Toc H Plaque.

**KEEPING UP THE MOMENTUM IN 2011:**

It will be important to maintain the present momentum in Toc H in 2011 and to begin thinking about the Centenary of the Movement in 2015.

We extend a very warm welcome to our new National Chaplain – The Right Reverend David McCall, who lives in Adelaide. His input in the years ahead will be most valuable to Toc H to ensure that the Christian Foundations upon which the Movement has been
built are maintained.

The 2011 Toc H World Chain of Light will be held in Christ Church Cathedral in Newcastle which is the Spiritual home of Toc H in Australia. The Dean, Dr James Rigney is very supportive of this happening and so are the Wardens of the Cathedral. A small group of Friends of Toc H will meet several times in 2011 to discuss and support this initiative.

It is hoped to begin work on a book on ‘The History of Toc H in Australia’. Our National President, Darryl Low Choy, our National Acting Secretary, David Hall and myself will meet in the near future to discuss the way forward on this project. There is much that needs to be recorded before it is too late.

The Toc H Australia Website should be up and running before the Australian Council Meeting. More and more people are referring to our Website, so it is important that it says what we want it to say and that it is maintained well.

At the beginning of this year Alastair Kennedy, who lives in Canberra, agreed to take on the role of Public Officer for Toc H Australia and we thank him most sincerely for his work in this role during the year. Unfortunately he and his wife, Margaret, have to return to England and he has had to resign from this position. The 2011 National Youth Leadership Course will be held on Mt Tamborine from the 17th to the 21st January, 2011. It is becoming more difficult to attract young people to attend the Leadership Course for a variety of reasons and this will need to be discussed fully at the Council Meeting.

The publication of The Link is also becoming more difficult. Cost of postage is a concern, the overall quality of articles suitable for publication is average, and it is time consuming. It was planned to have at least two Editions published in 2010, but this was simply not possible.

We record our sincere thanks to Neil Truscott for everything he has done as Public Officer, member of the Toc H Australia Council and the leader of Toc H in Canberra for many years. His contribution to the movement in Australia has been most significant and we hope that he will keep in touch and continue his support for many years to come. Neil had a deep understanding of the ethos of Toc H and what it really means to be a Toc H member and his carefully thought out comments on so many issues will be greatly missed, especially at meetings of the Toc H Australia Council.

In conclusion I would like to wish everyone a Happy and safe New Year.

Ray Geise, OAM, KSJ,
Director,
Toc H Australia.