

## General Secretary report 2022-2023

I would like to begin with expressing my gratitude to you all for your continued membership. This this earthly vessel for Anthroposophy named 'The General Anthroposophical Society' (G.A.S.) originated from a profound deed of Rudolf Steiner 99 years ago. The G.A.S enables a visible organ for the 'earthly temple of the future' in its becoming. Everything on earth needs a body.

Thank you for *wanting Society*, not merely wanting the plethora of amazing insights that Steiner brought to us through his lectures.

This AGM, today, is just part of the whole reality of our lively Spiritual community. When we meet in loving community, in our deep resolve to continue to develop the Consciousness soul, we care for our Spiritual science and our workflows to the Spirit world and prepares something for the far future cultural epoch.

It is 33x3 years, and in this rhythm, we are called to be wide awake as that which, from the past, is not resolved can be used by the adversary forces. Globally there is mistrust, hardening and conspiracy theory, fear prevents freedom, negativity makes us impotent. Trust must be at the centre and as we exchange our thoughts with our fellows. Trust in the best intention of the other.

It is a very exciting time for Anthroposophist with the 100-year anniversary of so many varied initiatives. Flexibility of soul is paramount.

I am heartened by a concept I heard of recently called *Pronoia* - optimism for a better future. Without room for hope, or at least recognition of the intermediary as a determinant of the future, there is no space for action. *Pronoia* is the antidote to *paranoia*.

Devils exist but so do angels.

Rest assured that the primal benefactors are plotting to emancipate humanity. There are many questions about the relationship of 'centre and periphery' – As Anthroposophists we trust in the dynamism of the in between, the middle place. Must have movement and have space for spirit to enter, for creativity to fly, and then we must be attentive and open in the moment in the present. This is where we can share ideas in conversations full of possibility.

### General Secretary duties

As the General secretary there are so many tasks. I cannot address or answer them all, nor be as prompt as some might hope. There are different expectations to be met and modern modes of communication may not suit everybody. Some things, meaningful to some, are not for others. Communication involves different levels of listening, discernment in information and the ability to be silent, along with the courage to be truthful.

As a representative of ASinA, I have no job description or code of practice. I am working with the other Country representatives to develop a global *organ* where we can cultivate a shared imagination and realise expectations of members and society. I invite your input.

Meanwhile, I would encourage 'special interest groups' to link with the Sections. Only the widest research will hold us in good stead for the future.

Let us recognise the dynamism between all the differing groups and levels, this comes from who we are in the moment let us perceive in the moment.

I strive to faithfully represent the Australian membership to the executive at the Goetheanum and in late 2022 I visited Dornach for the first time in my role.

The conversations there are complex and varied. There are many issues such as:

- Where Anthroposophia lives in countries not represented at the table e.g China, South Korea
- How can we transcend nationality and build a cosmopolitan society.
- Constitution questions and processes
- Steps for responses to attacks from media and individuals, especially in Germany and France.
- Financial security.
- Why some of the *movement* disassociates with the Society?
- Is Society visible and understandable, is it 'light filled'?
- The myriad of motions that come to the Vorstand for the AGM, and dedicating the time to address them all.
- Consideration for all the trauma and hurt from the past that sometimes drives the actions of individuals.

At the Goetheanum alone there are more than 200 co-workers. The pending 'World Conference' in Dornach, 27/9-01/10 2023 is seen as a foundation for social forming as is the planned Christmas Foundation meeting.

**In Australia**, it has been 3 years since the branch representatives met over two weekends, to collaborate and reflect our individual and shared experience of our Anthroposophical Society in Australia.

On 28/29 April this year, we met again to plan our future together. Much of this dedicated time was spend building relationships and collegium.

The outcomes of those meetings will be reported to you, as members by your branch/ group representatives.

To explore this theme, one will need to develop in our souls a continually perceiving and to engender a mood of pondering and reflection. This means we can avoid jumping to conclusions and judgements. Flexibility to shift from a fixed point as things around us develop. Looking for the signposts beyond the sense perceptible and developing new senses.

## **Membership**

I will focus now on the membership, intending that we may have a collaborative Country Society in future. I have travelled to Victoria, South Australia, Canberra, Sydney and the Northern rivers groups.

I deeply thank the Branch reps and committee members for their striving.

I thank Mark Gallagher for the Journal and newsletter, Graham Long for membership registration, Fiona Campbell for the website.

"We must actually 'live' the Anthroposophy we strive for, that is the point, trying to make it a force for life from which we can draw creative strength. "(GA 275)

In gratitude,

**Jane Bradshaw**  
**13/4/2023.**