## Report on the 2022 AGM of the Anthroposophical Society in Australia 15-17 April, Easter 2022.

The 2022 AGM of the ASinA was hosted by the <u>South Australian branch</u> over the Easter weekend. The main event was held at their Anthroposophical Society rooms in central Halifax Street.

Here is a report from General Secretary Jane Bradshaw on the event.

Thank you to the South Australian branch committee and members for hosting this year's AGM. Such an event enlivens the community with its activities and new connections.

On the Friday afternoon, I met with the Branch representatives who were able to travel. These individuals have enabled their local members to have access to ongoing activities throughout the previous year, keeping communication alive during shutdowns and restrictions. I thank them for that.

Together we spoke about shared vision for the society and these discussions set a mood for our Easter weekend gathering. A shared desire to enhance connection and communication was apparent.

I acknowledge that some members chose not to attend because they had prior commitments relating to Easter.

We then invited local members and fends to join a conversation about community building presented by Helen Vogel of <a href="mailto:the School of Spiritual Science Facilitation">the School of Spiritual Science Facilitation</a>
<a href="mailto:Group">Group</a>, The basis of discussion was Rudolf Steiner's collection of lectures, '<a href="mailto:Awakening.community">Awakening</a>
<a href="mailto:community">community</a>.' In the evening, Class members gathered for Lesson 14 in the evening.

There were 32 members present and another 28 members joined us from across the country via Zoom. Highlights from the event include at the introduction of the youth section Oceania and Chuck D. a fellow anthroposophist from Bali who shared with us activities within Indonesia.

On Saturday afternoon, the <u>Stream of Life Research Studio</u> gave a joint presentation of three different approaches to the theme of: 'If our work on virtue (truth, courage and love) is without a relationship to Christ, is it anthroposophical?' Thoughts on the relevance of Easter for the Anthroposophical Society today.

Chair of the ASinA, Deborah Neale said about the presentations: 'It was so wonderful to hear the three perspectives that each of your brought. We are indeed fortunate to have you as part of the Society. I do look forward to hearing what you bring together in the future'.

On Easter Saturday evening, we were invited to participate in the artistic activity at the <u>Aldinga Arts Eco Village</u>. We were able to leave behind us, our busy minds and worldly duties for a shared experience of community. What joy for all those present.

We shared delicious woodfired pizza and met new friends and watched the full moon rise. We were then delighted by a very rich programme of speech and drama, eurythmy and music, with original compositions and Rudolf Steiner's writings.

Deep gratitude to the artists for taking on the theme of Courage, Love and Truth.

All pieces spoken and performed in a way, fully available for imaginative experience for anthroposophist and guests alike.

On Easter Sunday, some members attended the Christian Community Church at Mount Barker and in the afternoon, we met again at Halifax St to share our imaginations of Easter, led by Barry Dale.

It is with deep gratitude to all participants that I share some reflections (below) from participants at the South Australian AGM.

## Jane Bradshaw.

## Other reflections

'A comment regarding the cultural circle-each study group could perhaps plant trees in their own areas to facilitate healing of the land'.

'By doing the inner work we bring love into one's heart to find the balance of God in the centre.' Jules - Northern Territory

'I find it wonderful that the Easter Sunday discussion lighted on the very present perception of aboriginal presence worldview and spirituality. I say very present perception because it is the challenge of our consciousness as anthroposophist's living in Australia. The fact that members of this conference were inspired to build such a conversation in the light of anthroposophy is heartening.' Philippa - South Australia

'So good to have a larger and enthusiastic happening in Adelaide again. I feel more in touch after a long time a good variety of activities a chance to meet other Anthroposophists from other states. To have large round circle discussion, to share wonderful food, all this to me for me a real Easter experience'. Jenny - South Australia

During the recent AGM held in Adelaide I became aware of a difference between an internal process, that which awakens something within me, and the things I take on intellectually. The wisdom that has lived in me and changed me, for a moment or for ever, is not the same as wise words that live in my head that I can bring out to show others.

Why is of interest to me. Much of the work that I do is with men, boys and families who have no or very little relationship with the Spiritual. In many cases, because of past trauma, there is a listening that is ready to reject any suggestion that there's something other than what is tangibly sense perceptible. To others who do have a sense of spirit, it is perceived as an undefinable entity, everything in spirit is called spirit, there are no angels, nor the dead and the heavens are filled with lifeless burning stars.

For me, taking Anthroposophy into this world is to have a profound and deep listening to what another person is sharing, and allowing the wisdom of Anthroposophy to meet the inquiry.

Through allowing Steiner's (and other beings of wisdom) words to move something deep within me and to hold that till I find my own meaning of this wisdom allows me a possibility to meet another person in an open-hearted way. In the stillness of that listening a bridge of who I have become meets with another being in a friendly exploration of what is possible in the world of imagination, and in some way we each plant seeds of each other in each other.

I wonder why this realisation came to pass at the AGM meeting? Maybe it is because I had the unusual privilege of being with a delightful group of people who embrace spirit, there was an effortlessness in being seen and seeing others. The context of the conversations was to deeply inquire. Yet even in gratitude of this deepening I realised for me the wisdom that Steiner gives is a signpost, pointing me in a direction. It is still up to me to see the sign, to take it on and live the journey of awakening, if I want to live my destiny in the world. - Cole Bradshaw