

NOVEMBER 2011

# Newcastle Spiritualist Church Inc



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DAY	TIME	FACILITATOR	DESCRIPTION
MONDAY	7.30 pm– 9.00 pm	Marcia Parkes	Meditation/Development
TUESDAY	10.30 am – Noon	Carmel John	Meditation/Healing
	**Committee Meeting**	**7pm**	8TH NOVEMBER
WEDNESDAY	11.00am-2.30pm	Yvonne Warren	Meditation/Development
	7.30pm-9pm	Jo Burgess	Meditation/Development
THURSDAY	8.30am-1pm	Entry through side door	Readings
FRIDAY	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Carmel Colquhoun	Meditation/Development
SUNDAY	3.00 pm & 7.00 pm	Various	Services All welcome

## Our Philosophy is based on Seven Principles

*(With liberty of interpretation)*

- 1. The Fatherhood of God.*
- 2. The Brotherhood of Man.*
- 3. The immortality of the soul and its personal characteristics*
- 4. The proven facts of communication between departed human spirits and mortals*
- 5. Personal responsibility.*
- 6. Compensation and retribution hereafter for all good and evil deeds done here*
- 7. A path of Eternal Progress open to every human soul who wills to tread it by the path of eternal good.*

*Dear Friends,*



*How fortunate we are to be experiencing such great Spring weather.*

*A little changeable, but still nothing to complain of.*

*When we watch the news of earthquakes and floods in other countries, it really brings home just how blessed we are to be living here, and at this exciting time in history when every day we hear of new developments and treatments for illnesses. When so many are involved and working for the betterment of others. Truly blessed.*

*Let this season of renewal warm your heart, and bring you health and resolution of your problems.*

*Speaking of problems, I would like to send my best wishes to Debbie Mallam, long time member, who had a brush with a vehicle, a four wheel drive vehicle in fact, that almost ran over her as she was standing beside her own car. How quickly such things occur, so glad you are still with us Debbie to tell the tale.*

*As always our best wishes and prayers go out to those ill, or facing problems that seem insurmountable; those on our healing list, as well as those personally known to each of us. Remember, problems shared can sometimes seem lighter, helping hands really are there, just waiting to be extended. So share it.*

*Thanks to all who came along to AGM, not a large roll up, but enough to enable the election to proceed. All those nominated were elected, leaving vacancies for others who may like to come forward to Gain experience.. To become a member of executive, you must have been a committee member for at least two years, and as change is inevitable it is important more people step forward to join our Committee; experienced members are then able to step up, and accept executive roles.*

*Plans are underway for the painting of the interior of the Church, and new carpet and seating, so 2012 will be an exciting time of renewal, in which all members will share.*

*Once again, I thank you all for your support, and the many ways you all help keep Swan Street operating, volunteers all.*

*See you in Church,*

*Carmel Colquhoun*

PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER 2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
<u>6th November</u>		
3pm	Grant Truewhena	Peter Galbraith
7pm	Gundrun Sjlander	Charles Freeman
<u>13th November</u>		
3pm	Shirley Darby	Ivo Van Emmerik
7pm	Arvids Sprogis	Marcia Parkes
<u>20th November</u>		
3pm	Marcia Parkes	Krys Johnson
7pm	Dave Everett	Yvonne Gibson
<u>27th November</u>		
3pm	Tuesday Circle	Carmel John
7pm	Marcia Parkes	Charles Freeman
<u>4th December</u>		
3pm	Shirley Darby	Jo Burgess
7pm	Jenny Bush	Charles Freeman

As always, a great selection of speakers this month, old friends and new. This will be Arvids first address, although he has chaired before.

Remember, some times, speakers are not able to attend, through ill health or family problems.

It is heartwarming to see others step up to do the address when schedule speaker. Thanks to those who regularly fill in.

Should you wish to be on the platform, or if you would like to suggest a speaker, please let us know. Input is appreciated.

**Closing dates for coming Christmas period**

Monday night Circle                      closing 19th December    reopening 9th January

Tuesday day Circle                        closing 20th December    reopening 10th January

Wednesday day Circle                      closing 14th December

Wednesday night Circle                    closing 14th December    reopening 11th January

The final Thursday Reading Day will be 24th November. Resume `2nd February.

**Sunday Services** Our last service 18th December 3pm Service only, followed by Christmas Supper (everyone bring a plate to share.)

**No Services New Years Day** 1st January,

## Bits and Pieces.

Well once again our AGM is behind us, and we have a committee of nine members, Still room for members interested in guiding the path we will take over the next year.

All members nominated were elected by those present, and I'd like to thank those present on the day. Personally, and it is **my** opinion, I feel it is a bit sad so few members come along to AGM and even nominate people for positions on committee. As I said on the day, "is it because you are happy with the way things are and have no reason to seek change?" or is it that it is assumed things will just roll on as they are, no need to get involved. This is a good opportunity to remind you that this Church operates with all volunteers.

Since my last newsletter I have had one of the biggest frights of my life.

Our daughter Lozzie, (yes the red-headed wedding celebrant,) had a heart attack at the age of 51 last Friday morning! Apart from vague "not feeling well" the previous day, it hit her at 7am while walking her dog, very close to home. She was able to get home, and Ray rang 000 and within 10mins she was being treated by those wonderful paramedics and a doctor.

Yes she was having a heart attack, yes she had seen the current ad about heart attacks, and they promptly treated her, then took her to hospital. No doubt saving her life!

She was later taken to Gateshead Cardiac Unit, many tests as you can imagine, then on Monday she had a stent placed in the artery, and then discharged on Tuesday. Well!

My head and heart are still spinning. Thanks for all the good wishes, prayers and healing. They appear to have done the trick!!!

I am told Katrina's Tarot day was a great success, and the coach trip and cruise on the Hawkesbury also went off well. A great lunch was served on the boat, in short, a perfect day out. Yvonne (Gibson) certainly did a top job of organising a wonderful outing. Well done Yvonne!!

Haven't had a chance to talk to the Tuesday Circle, but I am sure they had a great picnic.

Every day when I read the newspaper I find some item that just plain amazes me. I feel I must share this with someone, I find it amazing that such an item is world news. From NMH

### A convenient way to travel ....the Hague.

Dutch rail passengers will be offered plastic bags to use during short haul journeys on new trains that are not equipped with toilets.

The plastic bags will be offered to passengers during emergencies, such as when the train is stranded for a long time, a spokesman for Dutch Railways confirmed.

"Yes, we are planning to introduce the bags on our short-hop Sprinter trains. It is to be used in extreme emergencies only, for instance when a train is stranded," she said.

I cannot picture any emergency dire enough to use one on a crowded train, can you?

This is a true news item, I have not made it up. I just had to share, mind boggles, mine does anyway.

.....

A truck driver was driving along on a country road. A sign came up that read " Low Bridge Ahead."

Before he realised it, the bridge was directly ahead and he got stuck under it.

Cars were backed up for miles. Finally, a police car arrived.

The policeman got out of his car and walked to the truck's cab and said to the driver, "Got stuck, eh?"

The truck driver said, "No, I was delivering this bridge and ran out of diesel!"

The policeman got out of his car and the teenager he stopped for speeding rolled down his window.

"I've been waiting for you all day," the Cop said.

The kid replied, "Well I got here as fast as I could."

When the policeman finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

### Five Finger Prayer

This is so neat. I had never heard this before. This is beautiful - and it is surely worth making the 5 finger prayer a part of our lives.

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember..

"To pray for our loved ones is, "as C. S. Lewis once said, "a 'sweet duty.'

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger.. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5.. And lastly comes our little finger - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, 'The least shall be the greatest among you.' Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

Thanks to Jo Burgess for passing this email on, I thought you would like it.

.....

As we get older we sometimes begin to doubt our ability to "make a difference" in the world.

It is at these times that our hopes are boosted by the remarkable achievements of other "seniors" who have found the courage to take on challenges that would make many of us wither. Harold Jenkins is such a person:

**THIS IS QUOTED FROM HAROLD:**

"I've often been asked, 'What do you do now that you're retired?'

Well...I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background and one of the things I enjoy most is converting beer, wine and whiskey into urine. It's rewarding, uplifting, satisfying and fulfilling. I do it every day and I really enjoy it."

Harold should be an inspiration to us all.

### YOUR COMMITTEE AS ELECTED AT OUR AGM

President	Carmel Colquhoun
Vice President	Charles Freeman
Treasurer	Marcia Parkes
Membership Sec.	Yvonne Gibson
Secretary	Alva Macey
Librarian	Jo Burgess
Robyn Akins	
Krystyna Johnson	
Ivo Van Emmerik	

More bits and pieces.

All women should live so long as to be this kind of lady!

Toward the end of Sunday service, the Minister asked, "How many of you have forgiven your enemies?"

Eighty percent held up their hands.

The Minister then repeated his question. All responded this time, except one small elderly lady.

"Mrs. Neely? Are you not willing to forgive your enemies?"

"I don't have any," she replied, smiling sweetly.

"Mrs. Neely, that is very unusual. How old are you?"

"Ninety-eight," she replied. The congregation stood up and clapped their hands.

"Oh, Mrs. Neely, would you please come down in front & tell us all how a person can live ninety-eight years and not have an enemy in the world?"

The little sweetheart of a lady tottered down the aisle, faced the congregation, and said,

"I outlived them all."

.....

Why do I have a variety of friends who are all different in character ?

Some of them have obvious flaws, but then, so do I. How do I get on with them all ?

I think that each one helps to bring out a "different" part of me...

With one of them I am polite and as refined as I can manage.

I joke a lot with another.

I talk about serious matters with one.

With another I laugh a lot.

I share a glass of wine with one ,

And dance on occasion with another.

I listen to one friend's problems and give them advice

Then I listen to another advising me.

They are all like pieces of a jigsaw. When completed they form a treasure box. A treasure of friends!

They are my friends who understand me better than I myself do, who support me through good days and bad days. They are the anti-depressants that I need to make it through life.

Doctors tell us that friends are good for our health. Dr. Oz calls them Vitamin F (for Friends) and recounts the many benefits of friends to our well being.

Research shows that people in strong social circles have less risk of depression and terminal strokes. The warmth of friendship reduces stress and can decrease your risk of cardiac arrest or stroke.

If you take Vitamin F constantly you can be a lot younger than your physical age.

We should all value our friends and keep in touch with them.

Thank you for being one of my vitamins!

Many of us would have seen the picture of "The Praying Hands", also present in many Christian homes, but would almost certainly not have heard the moving story behind this popular picture.

### THE STORY BEHIND THE PICTURE OF THE PRAYING HANDS

Back in the fifteenth century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with eighteen children. Eighteen! In order merely to keep food on the table for this mob, the father and head of the household, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost eighteen hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighborhood.

Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of the elder children, Albrecht and Albert, had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew full well that their

father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy. After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies, in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, also by laboring in the mines. They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and went off to Nuremberg. Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose from his honored position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed and repeated, over and over, "No ...no no ..no."

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look ... look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother ....for me it is too late."

More than 450 years have passed. By now, Albrecht Durer's hundreds of masterful portraits, pen and silver-point sketches, water colors, charcoals, woodcuts, and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world, but the odds are great that you, like most people, are familiar with only one of Albrecht Durer's works. More than merely being familiar with it, you very well may have a reproduction hanging in your home or office.

One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands," but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love

"The Praying Hands."

The next time you see a copy of that touching creation, take a second look. Let it be your reminder, that no one - no one - ever makes it alone!



## Church Classifieds

When a vacancy occurs, you may advertise your product or service on this page for six months for a free will offering of \$50.

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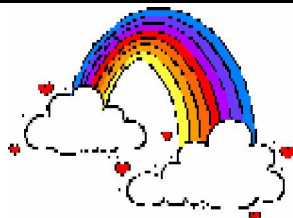
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