

ROSEVILLE NEW CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2024

“If we have good intentions toward our neighbours, think only good thoughts about them, and actually do them good when we can, we are associating with angelic spirits and become angels ourselves in the other life.”

(Secrets of Heaven 1680.2)

Directory

Society Minister

Rev. Howard Thompson

Officers

Secretary

Graham Hall

Treasurer

Joel Duckworth

Church Officer

Debra Barratt Thompson

Sunday Service -

The Roseville New Church holds a regular service of worship each Sunday at 10:00am. The first Sunday of each month includes an opportunity to partake of the Holy Supper.

Sunday Social Hour -

After every service we have tea and coffee, an opportunity to meet socially, sometimes more formally.

Calendar - *Included*

The Swedenborg Centre -

The Centre is generously supported by the Sydney Society of the New Church and provides an independent and relaxing place to meet and discuss a personal approach to finding spiritual meaning. The Centre has a wide range of study materials, Swedenborg's works, and books by supporting authors. The Centre and its director Joe Vandermeer can be reached on phone (02) 9416 2812 or email info@swedenborg.com.au Opening hours are Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm. More events details at www.swedenborg.com.au The Centre can also be used to answer enquiries about the New Church, its literature and its teachings.



“The cost of your good habits are in the present, the cost of your bad habits are in the future.”

(James Clear, *Atomic Habits*)

Roseville New Church Newsletter

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On Facebook – Roseville New Church

September 2024

In This Issue

- Ruth's 70th.
- We Blew The Roof Off.
- Ordination in Hurstville.
- Swedenborg Centre News.
- Spring Women's Weekend and Retreat 2025 News.
- NCIA Retreat 2025

Spiritual Shorts

Our minister, Rev. Howard Thompson, posts a weekly video on his YouTube channel, Spiritual Shorts. Begun during the pandemic to support home worship, these videos underwent a format change in 2023. This new format dispenses with the “ritual” elements used in the previous videos and results weekly episodes of around 5 minutes in length.



Spiritual Shorts YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsrICJGeGmrnXVawn_Y7UQA



Ruth Duckworth's 70th

Ruth turned 70 on Saturday, August 3rd and she had decided to invite people to a musical soirée at our home in Port Macquarie. Over the years we have been here, Ruth has joined various groups and made good friends with quite a few people. Then of course, the family, and others from further afield. Invitations went out to about sixty people and most of them were delighted to say that they would come.

The music would be live, and be given by our youngest son David on violin, me on piano, and a special solo performance by one of our grandchildren. Three generations of musicians performing many of Ruth's great favourites from years of listening. On the night, two half hours of music sandwiched with food, and time for people to mix and mingle.

Port Macquarie is the kind of place where a lot of people know each other or know people that others also know. This definitely came up at the party as people discovered that their friend was also a friend of Ruth. Ruth does zumba, vera flow (gentler zumba yoga), ballet, and art, plus individual other people.

Nearly all of our own family were able to come along in advance. One great





thing was that almost opposite our house is a newly-built house, now an AirBnB and big. So two of our families stayed there and came back and forth. One marvellous input into all the organisation was the re-arrangement of our large room at the back of the house with everything pushed to the sides, creating a surprising (to me) amount of room to sit the fifty-four people who came for the celebration.

We also have a good-sized covered back deck which was where the food was served, mainly out of three very large cauldrons with beef ragu, aubergine dhal, and kransky pasta, with salad and other options. A fire pit was lit on the patio to the side and kept grandchildren occupied in feeding it, while others chatted standing around it.

Towards the later part of the evening , after the second lot of music, we focused on Ruth's birthday with speeches and cake and Ruth thanked everyone for coming to share in the evening. A nice touch was that Ruth had gone through boxes of photos and chosen a good number reflecting her life. Three posters crammed with photos and captions were blu-tacked around the windows and are still up in the corridor, bringing back many memories for both of us.

Our son, Aaron, over in Amsterdam, beautifully created a video of his own greetings and memories, and then in came all of Ruth's brothers and sisters



to wish their sister a marvellous birthday celebration. They are all in England and can be with each other fairly promptly. Ruth is here, although we were there earlier this year.

One of the nicest things about the evening was that our family made sure that Ruth herself did not have to do anything at the party except be there with the people who came and enjoy the whole happening. A great evening, with people coming at 6 o'clock and leaving around 10 o'clock, obviously very glad to be there and - a sign of a good 'do' - not in any rush to leave.

Ruth was much-loved and undoubtedly celebrated by the whole community.

Julian

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Food Pantry



(Reprinting this as there has been a terrific response to last month's appeal - Keep it Up.)

For many years we have been collecting, in bins just inside the foyer of the church, pantry items which we have formerly donated to the Exodus Foundation. Due to difficulties around the logistics of regular collections, we have shifted our donations to the Salvation Army location in Chatswood. The Salvos already knew us, as we have been annually donating our fresh fruit and vegetable offerings from our Harvest service and annual Christmas toy drive.

I'm giving you this background because I would very much like to ask for your help. During my most recent delivery to the Salvos, I got to talking with one of the main volunteers. After expressing great appreciation for our small but regular donations she went on to say that the current economic conditions are creating more demand for their services and fewer donations. Between fewer volunteers, fewer donations coming in and greater demand, these organisations are struggling to meet the needs of our communities.

Please, if you can, collect any additional canned or dry goods in your weekly shop (even one or two items) and bring them to church, it would be most useful.

Howard

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Passing the Torch
(Maybe, More Appropriately, The Stole)

As many of our readers will be aware, Rev. Todd Beiswenger will be leaving his post as Pastor of the Hurstville Society later this year. This is a great loss for Hurstville and the greater New Church community in Australia, but a wonderful gain for the Toronto New Church society.

Fortunately, Hurstville has called the Rev. HyunJin Yang as their next pastor and a smooth transition is underway. While the formal transition is still a few month's away a special celebration of HyunJin's



ordination into the Second Degree (the Pastoral degree) of the General Church priesthood will take place in Hurstville on **22 September**. The ordination will be performed by the Rt. Rev. David Lindrooth.

In order that we may be able to celebrate with our friends in Hurstville we have decided to not hold a service in Roseville that Sunday and encourage our regular attenders to join the Hurstville Society in celebrating HyunJin's ordination.

A luncheon will follow the service and all desiring to attend are encouraged to contact Jenn Beiswenger with your intention (jenn@beiswenger.net).

Howard

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September 2024 **Swedenborg Centre News**

Welcome to another glorious spring!
(so far, at least in Sydney).

First, let me mention some special events and items.

Spiritual Movements at Roseville

Did you ever see the film "*Meetings*



With Remarkable Men"? Like Swedenborg, George Ivanovich Gurdjieff's teachings focus on developing the quality of our inner being. Gurdjieff's sacred dances and movements are a useful aid in this pursuit, as they enable our self-study and self-observation, provide personal challenges, and making possible this inner awakening and harmonious development. Precise movements, dances and postures are used which influence inner states, lead to an integration of breathing, thought, and habitual movement. Benefit from a greater sense of presence, awareness and attention. Gurdjieff used dance and art to transmit universal cosmic laws and enable our holistic integration and development through conscious effort. We invite you to experience the advantages for yourself by joining a movements class held on the **first and third Saturday of each month** between **3pm and 4:30pm** in the **hall under the Roseville New Church, 4 Shirley Road, Roseville NSW 2069**. Costs are covered by donation. If that sounds of interest to you, please contact either:

Joseph Azize on 0435 764 824 or joseph.azize@gmail.com

Joe Vandermeer on 02 9416 2812
or joe@swedenborg.com.au

Soundscape and Remembering, A gathering

On Saturday, **14th September**,
between **7pm-9pm**, guest speaker **Rob Evans** will
be giving a presentation at the **Swedenborg
Centre** with the title "**Soundscape and**

Remembering" focusing on some esoteric aspects of sound and the contemporary 'soundscape'. Rob has had a long interest and involvement in all aspects of sound and music. Some of the art of the late Michael J Wright's will be exhibited on that day (Michael's birthday). This is the 1st of a new series of exhibits of Michael's work provided with the blessings of his estate. For enquiries contact either: Rob Evans at rme142857@gmail.com and 0432 935 230, or Joe

Vandermeer at joe@swedenborg.com.au and 02 9416 2812. Join in person or via Zoom using the link contained in the event notice which you will find on our website at www.swedenborg.com.au.

Swedenborg Association AGM

The Swedenborg Association of Australia's annual general meeting is coming up at **7pm on Friday, September 27th**. Join via Zoom or in person at the Swedenborg Centre. The event and its Zoom link, plus relevant papers have been uploaded to the website at www.swedenborg.com.au Join the SAA before the AGM and we'll send you this year's free gift (membership details and application forms care on the above website, under the "about" menu item).

Our activities in the next month are as follows:

- Weekly **Swedenborg Readings** take place at 10am each Wednesday. The material on Regeneration is most illuminating. Join us if you can find the time.
- Fortnightly Tuesday **Bible Studies** with Howard Thompson are on at 11am, so that's on September 3rd and 17th.
- **Dr Groves Readings** will be at noon & 7pm EVERY Fridays. We are exploring the amazing work "**Spiritual Foundations**." See for yourself what all the excitement is about.
- **Swedenborg Saturday** discussions are every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, namely on September 7th and 21st (always at 10am).

Have a pleasant yet contemplative month.



See you at the Centre or online.

Joe

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“He Blew the Roof Off!”

How many times have you heard that phrase? This idiomatic expression is often used to describe a situation where something was

extremely successful, exciting, or impactful, usually beyond expectations. A Bruce Springsteen concert is the first thing that comes to my mind.

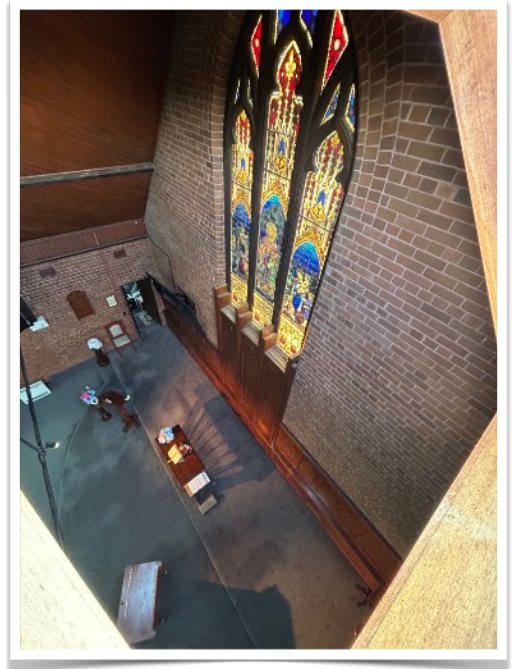
When I arrived in Roseville I did hope to spread the Good News and to share the news of the Lord’s Second Coming, but I never expected to blow the roof off! But, that’s nearly what happened on a blustery Saturday afternoon this past July.



The afternoon of 20 July I was going through my regular preparation for Sunday, at my desk setup at the back of the church sanctuary. It was a blustery day, to say the least, when suddenly, just after noon, I heard an extra loud gust of wind followed by a crashing sound over my head. The wind that day had torn one of our skylights from its frame and it shattered in the courtyard between the manse

and the church.

Thankfully, while this was a significant wind event, it was not also a rain event. The SES was called and they successfully secured a tarp over the hole in our roof. This was no easy task given that the roof of our church has a 45° pitch and is well over 10 metres at its peak.



Our Church Officer, Debra got straight to work coordinating with our network of tradies. A scaffolding was erected within 3 weeks of the event and a new skylight was installed the following week.

We took advantage of the opportunity to access the roof by taking care of some other minor maintenance issues. These delayed improvements included; cleaning decades of lichen growth from the remaining skylights, patching several gutter leaks, installing bird spikes on the buttresses, repointing some brickwork and refurbishing some loose flashing.

I am grateful to both Debra and our long-cultivated network of tradies who turned a potential disaster into not much more than an inconvenience. A week ago, when the new skylight was installed and the building again was secure from weather, I immediately felt the weight or anxiety lift from my shoulders.

Howard

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Spring Women's Weekend **November 15-17, Hornsby**

We're doing it again! Ladies, mark your diaries: you're cordially invited to join other New Church-minded women across Australia and New Zealand for our spring women's weekend. We'll be gathering **Nov 15-17** at an Airbnb in **Hornsby, NSW and via Zoom**. There will be a nice combination of fun and inspiring sessions on offer, including a guest speaker chiming in from the U.S. and once again assembling birth kits for disadvantaged women in developing countries – plus down-time to visit with our sisters and explore the area (and go for a dip in the on-site pool!?). If this interests you and you haven't already signed up, please let Jenn know (jenn@beiswenger.net). The deadline isn't until October, but the sooner we know who's coming, the sooner we can start planning our weekend -- and the sooner we can all get excited!

On the subject of assembling birth kits, we will need to raise \$1000 to pay for the supplies, as in previous years. Since we're planning this well in advance, there's no urgency yet; watch this space for further details! Thanks in advance for your consideration!

Jenn Beiswenger

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Retreat 2025 *Tuning Into Inner Life*

As well as living in our body and living in the world, we all live inwardly in our personal life. You inside you. You might call this our 'being'. It's this that is the whole focus of spiritual teaching and practice. It's this which is the gift of God to us and where God works with us to bring us to love heaven. It's the world of our loves, thoughts, intentions, freedom and choosing. It shapes our outward life, and it's the whole of our eternal life.

Swedenborg's teachings address this inner focus all the time, helping us to understand how it goes. Living in busy worldly lives can close us down from even noticing this inner life, let alone dealing with it. This means we can miss out on nurturing it. Why not come along to the Retreat where we are going to concentrate on bringing it to the surface and see if for what it is.

We are not going to have traditional talks, and just sit and listen but it will be all more personal and a sharing of our inner life. Some new ways of using the Writings will be presented that you may find helpful. As we

2025 Retreat, Stanwell Tops
Thu 2nd - Mon 6th January

become more aware of our inner life it brings the Word alive in us, opening up endless help from the Lord. This then helps us to deal with everyday life, with our feelings and how we cope with and help other people. Do come and be a part of this new approach.

This retreat will be held at The Tops Conference centre at Stanwell Tops just south of Sydney. We have stayed there many times and have always had the best of care from the staff as well as comfortable facilities.

Arrival: Thursday, 2nd January 2025

Departure: Monday, 6th January 2025

Fully catered from Thursday dinner to Monday lunch

Ensuite twin rooms available.

For Booking Inquiries Contact:

nciaretreat@gmail.com

More information and details are available on our website: rosevillenewchurch.com.au

Minister's Contact Information and Office Hours

Rev. Howard A. Thompson

Office Hours: 11:00 am - 4.00 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Email: revhathompson@gmail.com

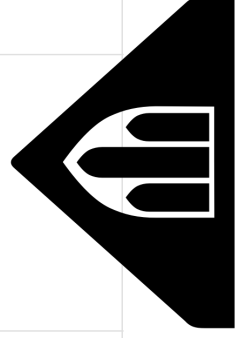
Phone: 0432 357 475

September

2024

August							October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>"Father's Day"</i> 10.00am Service of Worship Including Holy Supper Rev. Howard A. Thompson		Bible Study 11.00			Insights from Dr. Groves Noon & 7pm	Swedenborg Saturday 10.00 - 12.00
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10.00am Service of Worship Rev. Howard A. Thompson					Insights from Dr. Groves Noon & 7pm	Soundscape and Remembering 7pm-9pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10.00am Service of Worship Rev. Howard A. Thompson	Church Committee 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Bible Study 11.00			Insights from Dr. Groves Noon & 7pm	Swedenborg Saturday 10.00 - 12.00
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
NO ROSEVILLE SERVICE (See Newsletter)					Dr. Groves Readings SAA - AGM 7:00 pm	
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
10.00am Service of Worship Rev. Howard A. Thompson						



ROSEVILLE NEW CHURCH

