



Soul Searchers

Paranormal Magazine

January 2016 ~ Issue 11

Paracon Australia

May 26TH - 29TH 2016

THE CARRINGTON HOTEL

KATOOMBA · BLUE MOUNTAINS · AUSTRALIA



PARACON AUSTRALIA 2016

The Carrington Katoomba
26-29 May 2016

Paracon Australia 2016 May 26th-29th Carrington Hotel

Two days of Paranormal talks, panels, screenings, investigations and more.

International guests include Ouija Expert Robert Murch - Brian Cano from Haunted Collector, Paul Bradford from Ghost Hunters International and Roswell author and researcher Donald Schmitt.

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Tickets and Info: <http://www.paraconaustralia.com/weekend-overview-and-tickets.html>

Full Speakers List: <http://www.paraconaustralia.com/speaker-bios.html>

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1687389998146155/>

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Editor's Note

Is Ghost Hunting Good for Business?

It is apparent that paranormal television has certainly changed people's perspective on paranormal investigations and has made a significant economic impact for a whole lot of emerging businesses. Let's consider the amount of people now involved in the ghost hunting hobby, and the amount of time and money spent on equipment, attendance at ghost tours, conferences, and workshops etc., which equates to a lot of money being spent and possibly made.

Think about all the formerly unused and derelict properties that are now open for ghost tours, and the haunted hotels where you can have a drink and spend a night with a ghost. There are lots of variety of venues for the hobbyist to choose from. Lots of entertainment and also stuff for the serious investigator as well. Of course it is a good thing, but one wonders if the ghost hunting bubble is going to keep on getting bigger or will it burst sometime soon? Certainly there are lots of fun things to do, but I do wonder if there is any real research going on at the moment? With so many venues tied up with ghost tours and venue owners charging exorbitant rental costs it makes it very difficult and unaffordable for the researcher to be able to conduct lone investigations.

Janine Donnellan



The Carrington Hotel

After spending a weekend last year attending Paracon at the Carrington Hotel I can definitely say that the hotel is haunted. I attended with a couple of my team members from Soul Searchers Investigations and immediately on arrival one of the rooms allocated to one of the team was discovered to be haunted by a very disgruntled ghost which has been known to staff as a maid that haunts a couple of the rooms including the billiards room. The hotel does have a spooky energy to it and you often get a glimpse from the corner of your eye of someone from another time.

The Carrington Hotel has a long and rich history since her establishment by Sydney hotelier Harry Rowell more than one hundred and thirty years ago.



Opened in 1883 as The Great Western, this Grand Old Lady soon became a popular mountain retreat for international visitors, the

elite of Sydney, and those eager to see the natural wonders of the Blue Mountains. Renamed 'The Carrington' in 1886, in honour of the then Governor of New South Wales, Lord Carrington, the hotel was extended by its new owner, Mr F C Goyder who is credited with the creation of The Grand Dining Room. With its extended and upgraded facilities, The Carrington gained even more acceptance as a world class establishment.



Lord Carrington

By the early 1900's The Carrington's reputation as the premier tourist resort in the Southern Hemisphere was undisputed and the newspapers of the day often cited her as the only rival to Raffles Hotel, Singapore within The Empire.

Sold in 1911 to Sir James Joynton Smith, who introduced the famous stained glass facade, The Carrington entered a new phase and quickly became known as the honeymoon destination of choice, and this remained so for the next half a century.



Although in a time of decline in Mountains tourism, The Carrington remained popular as ever through the 1950's and 60's and was bought by Theo Morris, a developer, in 1968. Despite the dwindling popularity of the Mountains in the 70's and the toll taken by time on the Hotel, her loyal clientele kept her afloat for nearly twenty more years.

The Carrington closed her doors in late 1985 and remained empty and derelict until 1991 when it was purchased with the aim of restoring and relaunching this Grand Old Lady of the Mountains.

The Carrington reopened her doors in December 1998 after eight years of restoration, however renovation and upgrade works still continue today as well as the restoration of the gardens, garages and old stables.

Paracon Australia 2016

Paracon Australia will be held again at The Carrington Hotel Katoomba on May 26th and 29th.

You can join the iconic and legend packed Blue Mountains for two days of lectures, presentations, screenings, investigations and more...

Speakers include; Alison Oborn, Andrea Kaldy, Attila Kaldy, Beth Luscombe, Bill Chalker, Bill Tabone, Brian Cano, Calvin Von Crush, Damien Nott, Don Meers, Donald Schmitt, Karen Rontowski, Kylie Harris, Mary Rodwell, Michelle Taylor, Mike Williams, Paul Bradford, Paul Cropper, Rebecca Lang, Renata Daniel, Richard Saunders, Robert Murch, Shawn Porter, Sheryl Gottschall and, Tony Healy.

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Paracon Australia 2016 Magazine

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Tickets are available at
<http://www.paraconaustralia.com/>

If you are thinking of staying at Carrington Hotel for Paracon Australia this year it is best to give them a call as we have rooms on hold for Paracon Australia guests.



There is a special rate for Paracon Australia guests. Email hello@paraconaustralia.com for the form or you can simply contact the Carrington directly
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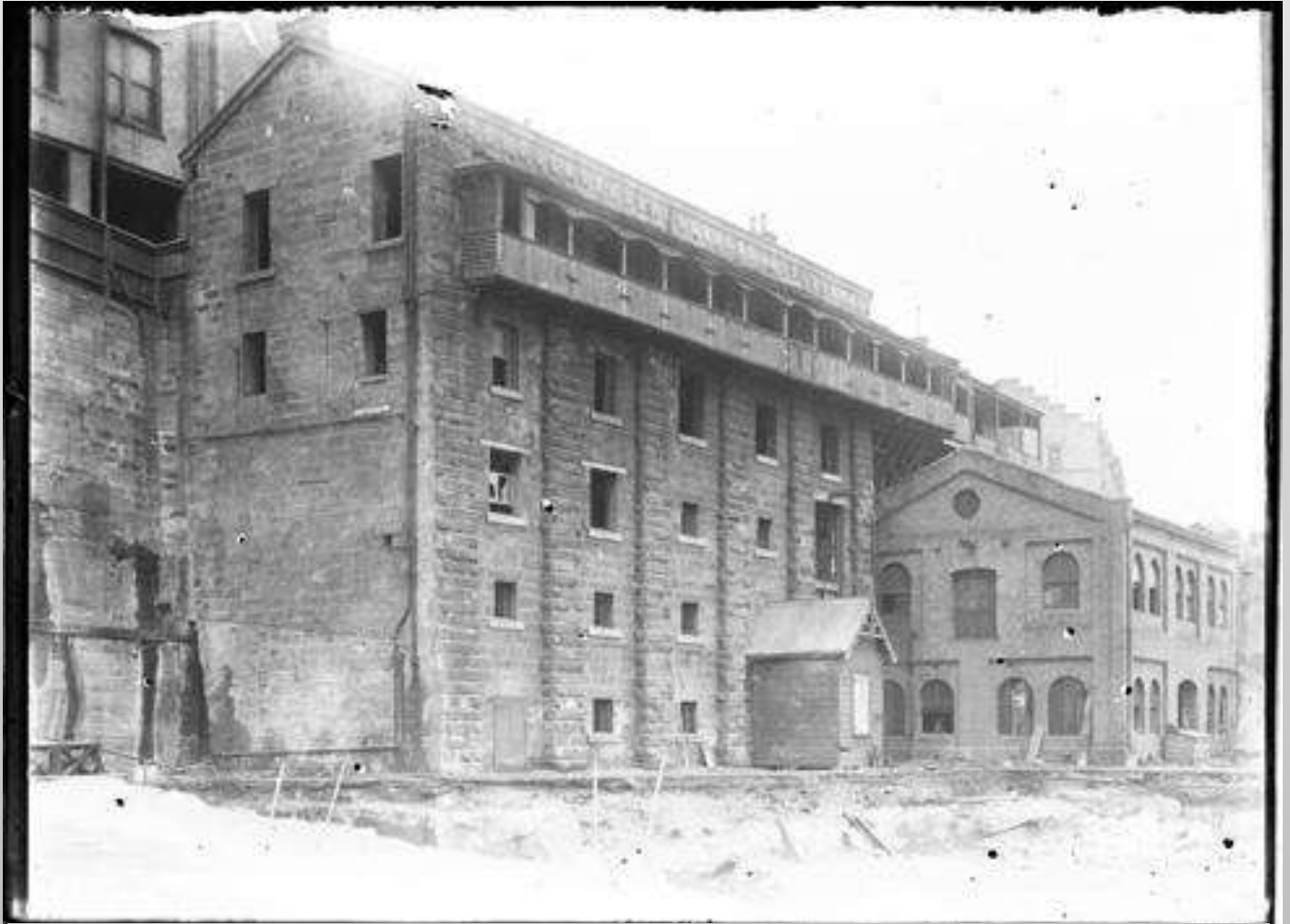
**Grab a sausage sizzle and sit in the beautiful leafy grounds
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When: 13 March from 10:00 – 16:00

**Fairfield City Museum & Gallery - 634 The Horsley Drive,
Smithfield, New South Wales, Australia 2164**

A Poltergeist named George

By Ross Downie



Old Sydney Gasworks, Hickson Rd, prior to conversion for use as the Sydney Harbour Trust Main Store. Circa 1912. Photo reproduced and used with the kind permission of State Records New South Wales.

The next time you are in The Rocks in Sydney, do yourself a favour and turn right off George Street into Hickson Road and take a stroll along Hickson Road and go down under the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

You will now be going south down Hickson Road, and you will marvel at the old wharves and bond stores which have now been converted into a trendy mix of apartments, restaurants, bars, theatres, arts organisations and funky businesses, to name just a few. It is not too hard to imagine, given the preservation and restoration of the old buildings, what a busy area it must have been back in the days when the area was the major hub of various maritime industries.

As you continue down past Towns Place under the road arches, you will come to a section of Hickson Road that looks like it is just a giant car park, with cars parked at 90 degrees on both sides of the road. However, while it looks uninteresting, don't turn back. Walk on the western footpath and you will soon see the construction taking place at the new Barangaroo development by Lend Lease.

This area was where the main wharf and associated facilities were located, when maritime industries commencing in the 1820's, was at its heights from the 1880's to 1960's. It then gradually declined with the introduction of shipping containers and effectively ceased altogether by 2007 when all commercial

shipping activities were moved to Port Botany and the wharf areas were designated for redevelopment.



Workers cottages High Street and looking south down Hickson Road

Look to your left and up and you will see the old wharf labourers' cottages in the aptly named High Street. Keep walking south along Hickson Road and you will see the steep steps that the council built to enable the wharf labourers to get down to the docks quickly when ships needed to be loaded or unloaded, now used by joggers to get fit. Immediately to the right of these steps you will then see the eight story glitzy, high tech and environmentally friendly head office of Lend Lease Corporation, which was finished in 2003. In a complete contrast to this modern building, and sitting right next door, you will see an old, five storey sandstone building, and until early 2014 this was also used as office space by Lend Lease. The two buildings were known by Lend Lease employees as the Commercial and Heritage buildings respectively, and not surprisingly, the two buildings had very different "personalities".

My name is Ross and I commenced working with Lend Lease on 28 March 1989, and worked in various areas of Australia Square which was then the Lend Lease HQ. In 2003 Lend Lease finished the Commercial building, which was to become the new HQ. As part of the Sydney Council development consent, Lend Lease had to restore the Heritage Building, which was basically derelict.

The Heritage building was built in in the early 1840's as the HQ for the Australian Gaslight Company. It was made with sandstone quarried on site, and had walls that thick it would be able to with stand an atomic blast! In

what must have been an engineering marvel and very novel in its day, there were no internal stairs in the building – rather there was an internal elevator that was used to get between the floors. How long the AGC used the building for is not known, but by about 1912 the building was basically derelict. Whether it was restored and used for some other purpose during the remainder of the 20th century is not known, but by the time Lend Lease moved into the area it was (again?) derelict.



The Heritage building today - November 2014

Lend Lease did a terrific job restoring the Heritage building, firstly by putting on a new roof to stop further water damage, and then by sympathetically converting the floors to usable office space. The development consent specified that the heritage features of the building had to be kept and restored. The thick sandstone blocks were cleaned and bleached, bathrooms and kitchen areas installed, fire exits created, the old elevator voids covered over, air conditioning installed, and even a small external elevator installed. Internal stairs were installed so people could walk between from the top (fifth) floor down to levels 1, 2 and 3. The ground floor remained separated and "stood alone" from the other four floors and the entrance to the ground floor was from Hickson Road. The main entrance to the remainder of the building was via the fifth (top level), where Gas Lane has its short run off Kent Street down to Jenkins Street.

In addition to the above, a coffee shop was created on the top floor at the left side of the building, and a new veranda installed the length of the top floor for use by the coffee shop as an outdoor area. In 2003 Lend Lease employees moved from Australia Square to their new premises in Hickson Road.



Entry to the Top Floor coffee shop

My job role at Lend Lease at this time was manager of their employee benefits division, which involved the management of the Lend Lease superannuation fund and employee share scheme. Due to the nature of these benefit vehicles, there was a great deal of interface needed with the payroll area. Further, to provide IT support to both my area and payroll, specialist IT system and reporting management was required. Therefore for these reasons, plus the confidential nature of our respective areas, payroll was located on level 1 (immediately below the top floor), my people were located on level 2, and IT support on level 3. The ground floor was only used for a short time as office space, and quickly became the maintenance and storage area for the two buildings. The top floor (where the coffee shop was located) had an open area which was used for functions from time to time, and the southern end was made into an IT training room. To get to levels 1, 2, and 3, you entered the top floor and the used your security pass to let you through a door and down the stairs to the payroll area – you could then go down to levels 2 and 3.

The payroll area consisted of a large room at the northern end, an open area, also used as office space, in the middle, and to the south a meeting room and storeroom. Level 2 consisted of a large room at the northern end, a large break out lunch room in the middle, and kitchen and bathroom. Level 3 was almost identical to level 2, except the open area was configured (but rarely used) as office space similar to level 1.

The Commercial and Heritage buildings were two totally different areas to work in. The Commercial building was open plan – new, modern and high tech, and by its nature very social. The Heritage building was a very quiet place to work – gloomy at times and you could get a feeling of being isolated from the rest of the organisation – it was my experience people either loved or hated working in the Heritage building.

The strange occurrences started not long after we moved in. To get down to level 2 I first had to use my security pass to enter the top floor from outside, then once inside three meters to my right there was another door that put me on the landing of the stairs that led down to level 1. To open this door, similar to the entrance door, you had to actually touch your security pass on the electronic reader – the door then made a click noise to indicate the electronic lock had been released and you could then pull the door to open and enter. If you did not pull the door open after the electronic lock had been released the door relocked after about five seconds.

Now the open area on the top floor had some comfortable chairs and lounges, plus it was also quiet, so it was an ideal place to have casual meetings, which I did quite often when talking to employees about their superannuation and/or share plan issues. On one occasion I got up to return to level 2 and while still on the other side of the room I heard the electronic click of the door release being activated. I opened the door expecting to find someone on the landing just about to come out, but there was no one there. This happened on a few occasions, almost as if someone was opening the door for me. I tried several times to wave my security pass around the reader without actually touching it to see if I could open the door, but could never get it to open even from only a few centimetres away.

I casually mentioned this one day to a girl in payroll and she said on several occasions she had been going up the stairs and the electronic lock activated to release the door – she opened the door expecting someone to be standing there about to come through the door to go downstairs, but there was no one on the top floor on each occasion.

Another occasion when I was working back late one night (about 8pm from memory) I suddenly heard banging and crashing coming from near the meeting room up on level 1, as if someone was throwing heavy furniture around. I immediately thought “what the hell is Brian [the then payroll manager] doing up there”, so I quietly crept up the stairs and looked down the floor of the payroll department in the direction of the meeting room – all the lights had been turned off and everyone had gone home and I realised I was the only one in the building. I returned to my desk and logged off my computer and left via the fire escape in record time.

The next and arguably most sinister happening was experienced by a girl in my team, named Elpida (not her real name). Elpida was from a Greek background had lovely thick, long black hair which reached down past her shoulders. Elpida’s work station was such that she sat near to and with her back to the fire escape on level 2. One day around lunchtime I came back into the room and Elpida was the only one there and looked extremely upset. I asked her if she was ok, to which she replied no, she was not. I asked her what the problem was, and she said someone had come up behind her, lifted her hair, and whispered something in her ear. She then said she spun around, thinking it was one of us who had sneaked through the fire escape to play a trick on her [which was impossible as every time the fire door was electronically opened from the fire escape there was a loud click, so you could not “sneak” through it], and she was going to tell who ever it was off. When she spun around there was no one there – I asked her what was whispered in her ear and she said she could not remember as she was too upset. I sent her outside to walk around in the sunshine for a while to get her calmed down.

The meeting room up on level 1 was named the “Mundy” room, after Jack Munday, the famous union leader who led the green bans of the 1970’s to save the Rocks from being converted into high rise towers (and yes, Lend Lease misspelt Munday by leaving out the “e” when they did the name plate for the room which Jack alerted us to when he was invited to inspect the room named after him). The room and corridor outside the Mundy room really spooked me – I was never comfortable

in that section of the building and only went there on a “needs to” basis. There was just something “not right” about that area of the building.

Over time I started to experience things being moved around on my desk – things like pens mysteriously appearing, notice board pins being placed on my documents etc. Nothing major. Then some time later my team relocated to level 3, and my new manager Sabrina (not her real name) moved over from the Commercial building and occupied a work station just behind where I sat.

While what Elpida experienced was the most frightening, what happened to Sabrina was the weirdest and most bizarre and I would not believe it myself had I not been there. It was a Friday, and whatever was in the building seemed most active on Fridays. Anyhow, Sabrina was in the process of moving her stuff into her new work station, and she had just finished wiping out a drawer under her desk. I had told Sabrina about the strange going-ons before she moved over, which she later admitted she thought may be an attempt to put her off moving over to sit near me, which of course was not true.

Again that morning things had been moved and placed on my desk, so I called Sabrina over to show her – she was only at my desk for about 30 seconds before returning to continue unpacking. When she returned to her desk she let out a shriek, and said “that was not there [in the drawer] a minute ago!” She then showed us what she was talking about – an unused condom (in its unopened wrapper). I immediately looked at Sabrina’s offside Maylee (not her real name), who occupied the work station next to Sabrina, and she looked at me. We both said “did you put that in the drawer?” I responded it was not me – I had been standing with Sabrina at my desk, and in any event it would not be terribly smart of me to do such a thing to my new female manager on her first day of moving in. I knew Maylee did not do it because I would have seen her get up, and she was not prone to playing tricks and she looked as mystified as I did. In any event, Sabrina did not accuse anyone as she was adamant the drawer was completely empty when I called her over. It was at this point I decided to tease Sabrina a bit and joked that the poltergeist must be a male, and he was

obviously keen on her and trying to send her a message, so I suggested we name him George.

One day I came into work and Maylee was sitting at her work station with a worried look on her face. When I asked her what was wrong, she said she was working back alone the following evening and she could hear furniture being moved around in the open area outside our room. Although there were work stations in that area, no one occupied them and this area was mainly used to store surplus office furniture, mainly chairs. Maylee advised me she had decided she would not work in the Heritage building by herself again, and if she needed to work back late she would take her laptop and go over to the Commercial building.

I should add that the internal stairs that had been installed were all wood, and when people went up and down them, especially down, they made quite a noise, so it was virtually impossible to sneak down them. On occasions when I was on level 3 I would hear footsteps coming down the stairs but nobody ever arrived at the bottom. As far as I am aware no one else experienced this.

Then one Friday not long after Sabrina moved in she was working back by herself one evening and all of a sudden the lights in our room turned off. The lights were not on an automated system and had to be manually turned on and off at light switches. So Sabrina got up and went to the light switch near the fire door and turned them back on. As she was walking back to her desk the lights in the outdoor and kitchen area suddenly turned off. So Sabrina went out there and turned them back on. As she was walking back to the room the lights there went out again. Annoyed, Sabrina said out loud "George, stop stuffing around with the lights!" and turned them back on. Fifteen minutes later the lights in the room went out again, at which point Sabrina had had enough and packed up and went home.

Now I frequently worked on weekends – I could get a lot done without phones ringing, people bothering me and emails coming in, and to be honest, although it was quite spooky being alone in the Heritage building nothing ever happened to me on weekends. But one thing I found strange was that the security

people would never go through the building although they were located in the Commercial building and patrolled that building on a regular basis all weekends. Especially strange since there was no CCT of the interior of the Heritage Building – you had to physically walk through the building to patrol it. And as I was to later find out when a fire alarm went off one Sunday afternoon, there were no alarms in the Heritage building that went back to the alarm controls in the Commercial building. If I had not rang Michael the security guy and told him the alarm had gone off he would not of known there was anything wrong until the fire brigade turned up. And by the way, a faulty sensor installed just that morning was the cause of the alarm going off - nothing to do with George.

One Sunday afternoon I came in to find the lights were on level 3. I rang Michael and asked if anyone had come into the building that weekend, to which he replied no, I was the only person who had entered all weekend. I told Michael the lights were on, and advised I would turn them off when I left. Anyhow, no big deal I thought, someone has just forgotten to turn them off Friday (plus see my comments above about no weekend or night patrols where the lights should have been turned off by security). After a few hours I decided to call it a day, and made sure to turn the lights off as I left the building via the fire escape. When I got outside and on the ground floor I looked back through the window next to my work station to see the lights were back on. I did not go back to turn them off – would have been a waste of time in any event.

On another occasion I was in the Mundy room having a meeting with a girl from the organisation that administered our share plan. I was telling her about the lights when, all of a sudden, the lights in the corridor outside the Mundy room went out. She was pretty freaked out and suggested that we should have future meetings at her offices!

Over time Sabrina moved on from Lend Lease and a new girl Sally (not her real name) joined and sat with me on level 3 to learn parts of my job. Sally and I were the only people sitting on level 3 at that time and most of the employees in the Heritage building had or were gradually being relocated to the Commercial building and it would be our turn soon.

Being a brand new employee, I told the payroll manager not to say anything about George to Sally, but let's see if Sally experiences anything – an experiment of sorts. That next Friday I came in late that morning to find Sally sitting there very quiet. I asked her how she was, and she replied that things had been very “strange” all morning. When asked her what she meant, she replied she had heard noises like someone moving furniture around outside our room, but she knew she was the only person on the floor, and she was not going outside the room to check. I then decided to tell her about George, and rather than being scared she was almost relieved to know there was an explanation of sorts.

Over time I too was moved over to the Commercial building and the Heritage building became vacant. At this time Lend Lease moved many of their admin teams to offices at Chatswood. Being close to where I live, I started working out of the Chatswood offices, and when I could I sat with the payroll team as I knew all the girls who worked in that department.

Due to the strange looks I used to get I did not tell many people about George and his antics, but one quiet afternoon I decided to tell two of the payroll girls some stories. To my surprise, they said that they too had experienced strange things when they were on level one of the Heritage building, mainly the shredding machine suddenly turning itself on when they were working alone evenings and late at night. No matter how many times they turned it off, it went back on a few minutes later. The only way to stop it was to pull the plug from the electrical socket. They also experienced lights being turned off. The shredder was located in the corridor outside the Mundy room.

Some months back in March 2014 I also left Lend Lease and just the other week had lunch with Sabrina. The subject of George came up, and she told me about the day she went to the Mundy room to get ready for a meeting. She entered the room, and then noticed an office chair in the corner of the room slowly turning around by itself, as if someone was sitting in it and slowly spinning the chair around. She

watched it for a while, picked up her things and decided to arrange her meeting somewhere else. Sabrina worked late many times in the Heritage building midweek and also confirmed that security never patrolled the building after hours. One evening she went over to the Commercial building where the security person expressed amazement that she would even consider staying in the Heritage building by herself evenings and at night.

The Heritage building has now been sold and Lend Lease no longer has offices in the building. Who George was we will never know. He mainly annoyed and played tricks on the girls, hence, as I stated, the reason we called the poltergeist George. And to be honest, there were people who worked in the Heritage building as long as I did and never experienced anything, or at least never admitted to experiencing anything. However, I did find people were reluctant to say anything about what happened to them, as indeed I was. But too many weird things were experienced by too many different people over a considerable period of time to simply dismiss as a few over active imaginations.

My theory about George is that he was probably a homeless person who used to take shelter in the Heritage building when it was derelict, and probably died in the building. Because he was a playful person, I'm guessing he was probably one of the “colourful characters” of Millers Point at some stage in its history. In any event, he was more annoying than scary. I just hope the new tenants, whoever they are, get to like George as much as I did and are prepared to put up with his antics and tricks – not that they can do too much about it if they don't! But as my dear departed father once told me – it's not the dead you need to be scared of, it's the living.

You can see more photos by Ross Downie at

[Spooky Happenings](#)

PROBLEMS IN PARANORMAL RESEARCH

by The Paranormal Analyst

Criticism of paranormal research has gone on for decades and isn't likely to end anytime soon. And while some of this criticism is valid much of it is misguided or illogical. What's more some of the biggest challenges facing the field of paranormal research are being ignored.

Use of Instruments

Skeptics often criticize paranormal investigators' use of EMF detectors, infrared thermometers and similar devices as unscientific. The argument is that none of these devices have been proven to measure a ghost or whatever phenomena is up for investigation. But this notion is baseless. There is no scientific requirement that an investigator must prove a phenomenon is related to some type of signal before a measuring device can be used. That entire idea is silly. How would you determine a correlation between EMF and a claimed ghost if we can't use a device to measure EMF? At some point an investigator must make a leap and use a device to investigate a possible relationship.

I will say that the way these instruments are employed by many ghost hunters is unscientific. Furthermore devices like spirit communicators are not proven measuring instruments so they will not yield scientifically valid observations. Skeptical criticism here is often misplaced.

Falsifiability

Science uses demarcation rules to separate reputable scientific work from non-science or pseudo-science. One of these rules is falsifiability. This rule says that a scientific claim must be able to be proven false. So if I

claim Bigfoot exists, for this claim and research to be considered scientific, there should be a method to determine if the claim is false. The same goes with ghosts and other paranormal phenomena. The problem is how do you prove ghosts don't exist? In short, you can't; at least not yet anyway.

This puts the work of paranormal research in a tough spot because to get more involvement from the scientific community the claims would have to meet this demarcation rule, but it won't meet that rule unless non-scientists can generate some testable evidence or claims. This is what I like to call...

The Participation Problem

The participation problem is this pseudo-paradox where scientists won't investigate claims of the paranormal because they do not meet the rules set by science. But even if true, how can these claims be scientific without some involvement from the scientific community. To generate testable claims or scientifically sound evidence it will likely require some serious involvement from the scientific community.

And unfortunately some skeptics extend this to the idea if it can't be scientifically tested it can't be true. This idea ignores the fact that not everything can be tested scientifically today. Limits of current knowledge, restrictions in measurement and flaws in the system of science can prevent something that is entirely true from being proven scientifically.

Methodological Naturalism

Methodological naturalism is another demarcation rule that says supernatural claims

are pseudo-science. While falsifiability allows a paranormal claim to be scientific if it can be tested, methodological naturalism denies the label of science to anything considered supernatural.

One of the biggest problems with this is a lack of any accepted definition for what is supernatural and what is natural. Would Bigfoot be considered supernatural or natural? How about the Loch Ness Monster? While ghosts and many other Fortean phenomena are considered supernatural, cryptids can fall into a grey area.

Another issue is what science considers natural is a product of time. Decades ago ball lightning and particle-wave theory would be hard to call natural. Thankfully some smart scientists followed the evidence and their own logic to prove these claims. Today these things are considered natural. The same could be true of paranormal phenomena. There may be a day when ghosts can be proven true, but we just don't know.

The Research Problem

Probably the core issue of paranormal research is one that is largely ignored. That is the lack of hard research. While skeptics criticize ghost hunters and crypto zoologists of unscientific work, many of these degree-holding scientists are guilty of the same. They offer only topical analysis of paranormal topics that does not stand up to scrutiny or even resemble scholarly research. In fact many skeptics and believers only engage in topical discussion of the paranormal. The reality is this type of work sells books, magazines and ad space on websites, so people of all sides do it: It is not hard research and it does nothing to advance our understanding of paranormal claims. I fear many of those involved in paranormal "research" or "skepticism" are in it for an easy way to make money and an ego boost. Although they may be in denial of that fact.

So when I hear statements from believers like "we have definitive proof of a ghost" or a skeptic's claims that Bigfoot is flatly non-existent I can't help but express doubt. Any rational mind who examines the field of paranormal research closely will find hundreds of books, thousands of articles, millions of personalities, but only a handful of organizations doing scholarly work.

And chances are you haven't even heard of many of them. That's because no one talks about the very short list of groups actually engaged in hard research of paranormal topics. I am beginning to accept that both sides find it more comfortable to stick with topical analysis than actually do hard research. After all that may dig up some uncomfortable realities that don't agree with their egos.

So take a look at this site,
theParanormalAnalyst.com.

I don't like to brag but I think the work here is pretty good. I go through a lot of trouble to thoroughly research topics and cite sources but traffic to this site is abysmal when compared to the topical paranormal news sites. And I'm not alone. Hard research in the paranormal doesn't sell. People either like the mystery or like a scientific explanation for every mystery even when it doesn't fit. Hard research just isn't cool. It doesn't make money, there are really no grants, and it is lonely, thankless work. Paranormal research could advance significantly if more people supported the investigation groups that do things right.

But a lack of interest in hard research will not stop my efforts and should not stop anyone else. I have faith that eventually people will embrace hard research of the paranormal and then, we may finally have some answers.

[**PARANORMAL ANALYST**](http://theParanormalAnalyst.com)



Lessons Learned as a Ghost Hunter By Craig Phoenixwolf

It may be that the term is over used these days. Everyone with a camera and an audio recorder it seems is a Ghost Hunter, no small part due to the popularity of Ghost Hunters, Paranormal Files and other supernatural investigation based television shows from America, England and Australia. Following the television model, I, like many, took to the night and walked grave yards, old disused halls and buildings including pubs, old homesteads and even an abandoned township.

As a ghost hunter, yes I will continue to use that term, I had some unique experiences that I will always remember. I was present when others had close encounters and did capture some "evidence" that I will treasure but did I ever catch a ghost? Did I prove their existence to others?

I never set out into the night to capture a ghost, often I would have little to nothing that I would call paranormal. I would look at each experience objectively and guardedly. I would look first to debunk even my own evidence. Could it be a human voice uttered by the living that my audio recorder caught? Was the orbs just dust or bugs or moisture in the air? Not all things could I explain.

I have always believed in the unexplained. One of my earliest encounters was in primary school when sitting in the church across the road from my school in tears because my mum was going to kill me for losing a school jumper.

I sat in the pews desperate when suddenly the image of the jumper in my desk appeared in my mind. I had checked my desk before leaving the school thinking I had left it in the church after school services. On returning to class there was my jumper just as I had seen. Was it an act of God? Or had a ghost seen my need and helped me?

As a ghost hunter I would get to the site with a new gadget, be it an EMF Meter (Electromagnetic Field), a temperature sensor, or camera. I honestly have spent hundreds of dollars on my ghost hunting equipment and for that what evidence of ghosts do I have? Honestly I have a couple of dubious photos that are really cool but might also be nothing and a really spooky EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomenon) "You don't have to be afraid of us" I say. "I KNOW" Comes the reply in a voice I cannot identify. Shudders. I was so glad I did not hear it at the time!

Being Pagan, I would go with a level of protection in place. Yes folks I use some forms of spiritual protection. I did learn that there are times and places for such enchantments and charms. But they can also inhibit the very thing you seek.

With my "shields down" I did experience more first-hand including being hugged in one unique encounter that occurred when I put away the majority of the toys and gadgets and focused my senses on the environment.

Here begins the first lesson.

Sometimes it is more rewarding to forget about gathering evidence and focus on gathering experiences. On a rare opportunity two investigators wandered alone in an area where there had been odd bits of stray unexplained EMF. We used the ever popular meter to detect the field and to our delight as we talked to what we hoped was a ghost, the field moved with us from one room to another. We had swept the rooms and found no fields until this field moved with us. We talked to the spirit and we were sure it was a little child. Now who has ever had a child wrap themselves around your leg? I know most parents will know this feeling. I did as my daughters both had done this when little.

Now here we were. My fellow investigator and I alone in the dark and I felt something cold but familiar around my leg. I was being hugged!!! It was an experience I will never forget and would not have had, I believe, had I been focused on gadgets and not open to the experience.

I found myself from that point less and less reliant on the ghost hunter's gadgets and resorting to older technology which resulted in older and more reliable connections. I used my Dowsing Rods, a gift from a fellow Witch and member of the pagan community and I found I could regularly have conversations and detect energies around me that my expensive gadgets couldn't detect or the spirits could not interact with.

Lesson two comes in the form of a simple statement.

Be appropriate in your approach. Think about the setting and the familiarity that the spirits you wish to talk to will have with things. A ghost from the 1800s may not know how to make the lights on your KII EMF Meter flash yet we seem to see ghost hunters everywhere talking about using these gadgets. I found I did have some success with them too so I do not totally dismiss them and had a well witnessed and lengthy conversation using a flashlight that was going on and off in response to questions I and others asked.

What I did find was my dowsing rods were both more intuitive and sensitive while being far more reliable in my investigations. Strangely I did see too a more frequent connection with older spirits too including an Aborigine who died before the building I was in was build which was not expected but matched other investigator comments of seeing a face in one spot where my rods led five different people consistently to the same spot.

I stop short of calling myself a psychic, if anything I am cynical when it comes to some who seem to overreact to events like some you see on television. That said, I have come to accept that in my own ghost hunting,

employing my dowsing rod and other techniques used by psychics work for me. With my senses open and my "shields down" I have had opportunities to explore "haunted" locations and to open myself up and as a result learned more about the place I was in.

As a ghost hunter this was the conclusion I was to reach. There is merit to using gadgets, but for me I experienced far more when I put aside technology and set out to experience the paranormal for myself.



Craig Phoenixwolf

Eccentric and eclectic Pagan and Paranormal Investigator.

"Having been keenly interested in the paranormal, and spending time researching the theories behind many of the commonly used tools of paranormal investigators, I came to the conclusion that no one knows it all, we are all grasping at ideas and hoping for that one elusive piece of proof to show the world we were right."

Animal Ghosts

by Dale Kaczmarek

I am often asked the question, "Do animals sometimes come back as ghosts just like some people do?" The evidence points to the answer: yes! Many people have had experiences with family pets coming back whether that be as simple as a ball of twine rolling across the floor by itself with no outside source, the feeling of something rubbing up against your leg and there's nothing there and sometimes the actual visual apparition of the beloved pet.

It seems that the ones that are reported the most in the animal world are dogs, cats and horses in that order respectively. However, there seems to be some confusion. Can ALL animals appear or come back as spirits? Are there certain limitations to which ones are allowed? Why aren't more animal ghosts seen and reported?

There aren't, to my knowledge, any reports of phantom mosquitoes or flies, etc. Perhaps only the intelligent species have souls? Those and other questions remain unanswered. Man is the only species that someday realizes that he or she will terminate and leave this world. All other species simply exist from day to day and die without being able to communicate to us that possibility that they in fact are dying.

I have been investigating many reports of phantom animals and have come up with some interesting case scenarios to present here. Remember, as with humans, not all animals will be perceived as ghosts someday only because of the way that animal has died. The scenario for "human" ghosts is usually one of a violent or tragic death and the "not realizing" that he or she has died because of the suddenness of some deaths. However, great love of an animal or the constant grieving of the loss of your pet will sometimes have the same effect as a sudden, violent or tragic death; it can will your animal to return for a short time.

In the Chicago suburbs at the border of civilization and the Cook County Forest Preserves is a fairly busy intersection, 95th Street and Kean. There are stables nearby and horse-riding trails wind their way through the lush flora. One of the trails must cross the busy and dangerous 95th Street to continue on the other side.

Until recently there was no traffic control device there to allow those on horseback to cross safely and quite a number of people were injured and at least seven were killed including some horses as well. The reason the intersection is so dangerous is twofold. One, the speed limit is 45 mph there but many do 50

mph or better coming out of the forest preserve and going into the city, and, two, there is a rise that obscures the driver's view of the individuals attempting to cross the street. At that speed, sometimes by the time the driver sees the people, it's already too late.

There have been numerous incidents especially at night or near dusk of motorists complaining of seeing what appears to be a horse and his rider in silhouette attempting to cross from one side to another. But as the driver begins to slow down and watch them more carefully, suddenly there's nothing there. These figures don't simply disappear near one side of the street or the other, but often right in the middle of the road!

They are best described as smoke grey silhouettes without any recognizable features but are often only seen from afar.

There have even been ghostly re-enactments of some actual events at that intersection as well. On one occasion, a motorist saw what appeared to be a horse throwing his rider from the saddle right in the middle of the road before disappearing. Some have seen a horse apparently being dragged down the roadway a bit as though a car had impacted with it and would have dragged it a little ways before coming to a complete stop.

In Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia stands the large grave marker of author Ellen Glasgow who was well known in Richmond and lived there for a good portion of her life. When she died, she stipulated in her will that her two pet dogs who had died prior to her death, be exhumed from her backyard and buried with her at Hollywood. Many claim that they have heard these dogs on occasions, scampering around quite near to that grave late at night.

At Hinsdale Animal Cemetery in a suburb just southwest of Chicago another mystery takes place. Passer-by's have often seen the black forms of dogs and other creatures flicker by in their headlights many times causing them to slam on the brakes, only when they do, often, there's nothing there. Perhaps some real animals are attracted to the massive remains of so many other animals? Perhaps. Perhaps not.

So, you decide for yourself if you believe in ghostly animals. A good book to pick up and read, if you can find it as it's no longer in print is, "Ghostly Animals Of America" by Patricia Edwards Clyne. (Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1977)



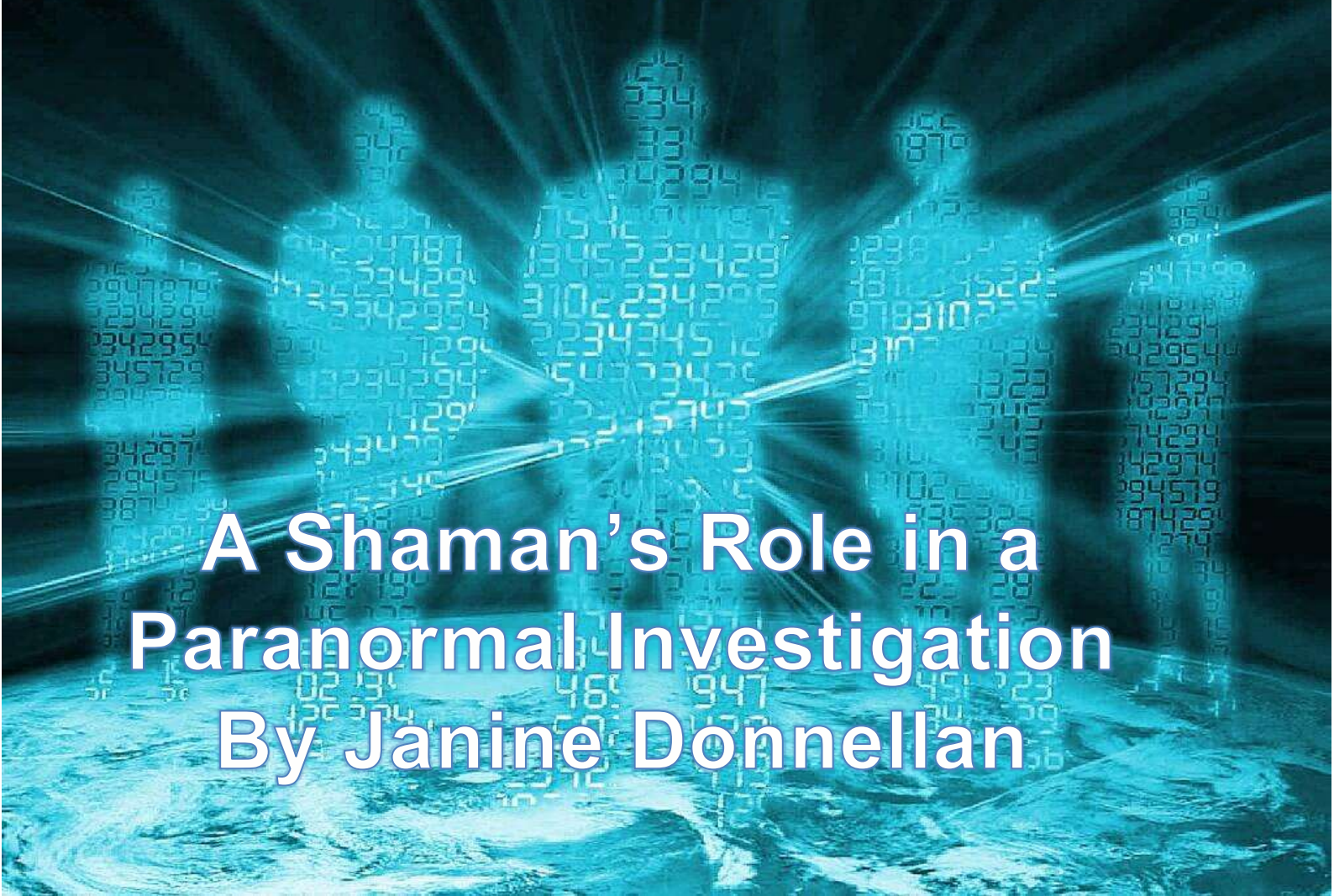
About Dale Kaczmarek - President of the Ghost Research Society

I have been actively investigating paranormal phenomena since 1975 although my interest goes far beyond that. I work with psychics which help to complement my investigations, whether local or out-of-state. I have conducted many investigations concerning ghost lights, haunted houses, battlefields, cemeteries, Indian burial grounds, murder sites, churches and sacred sites. I am currently listed in the Encyclopaedia of Associations, Directory of Newsletters, The Forensic Services Directory, Instant Information. I personally direct "Excursions into the Unknown, Inc.", Haunted Chicagoland Tours, which is a part of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce.

I have contributed a chapter for a book released by Bantam called "True Tales Of The Unknown: The Uninvited" and several chapters for "Dead Zones" released by Warner Books and both edited by Sharon Jarvis. I have written two books "Windy City Ghosts" and "Windy City Ghosts II" which deals with strange and unusual sightings around Chicago. I have also written a book detailing spirit photography entitled, "A Field Guide to Spirit Photography," "Illuminating the Darkness: They Mystery of Spooklights" and "A Field Guide to Ghost Hunting Techniques". My most recent book is titled "Field Guide to Haunted Highways and Bridges". I've been to England, Wales and across the United States seeking out the paranormal.

I am the Publisher of Ghost Research Society Press which produces and publishes fine quality books on the paranormal, mysterious and the supernatural since 2004.

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A Shaman's Role in a Paranormal Investigation

By Janine Donnellan

A shaman is a conduit to the spirit world, a world that is populated by spirits of ancestors, of plants and animals and of the other astral beings who inhabit the physical world and the other realms of existence. Through will, the shaman journeys into the spirit world and returns, communicating needs and desires in both directions: the shaman is seen to walk between the worlds.

The paths into the Otherworld are not defined; through our own powers of perception we can use different routes, some may use traditional tools of trance or meditation or some will develop their own unique method to move through the worlds.

Shamans working in a modern society where there is no clear surviving tradition to tap into must find new ways of building those bridges between the worlds. They may find threads of connection to our past, links to our ancestors, and traces of ideas that are obtained from other spiritual systems.

The world of the modern shaman is dealing with a world that is continually changing. Not

all of us are considered Shamans in the traditional sense but we can relate to situations from a shamanic perspective. Our role is to be the mediators between the physical and the spiritual worlds and to bridge the gap that remains between those worlds.

During a paranormal investigation the Shaman is focused and totally aware of what is happening around them. The Shaman needs to know the types of spirits that are encountered in the journey and be able to deal effectively with them.

The paranormal exist in that space that merges between the three worlds, the upper, the lower and the physical world. Once the shaman moves into this space the spiritual energies take on a clearer perspective and communication can become clearer with astral beings.

The Shaman can direct the investigators to various areas where the paranormal activity is happening. The Shaman's role would then provide healing to the lost soul and also assist the soul to move into higher realms.



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Apparitions, Ghosts and Hauntings

Apparition is a general term for a visual experience in which there appears to be present a person or animal (deceased or living) who is in fact out of sensory range of the witness.

Ghost is a popular term for an apparition of a dead person. Haunting is a popular term for apparitions and other associated phenomena (raps, cold spots, etc.) at a particular locality, generally a building. Reports come from all cultures and ages.

The first major study was the 1894 "Census of Hallucinations", containing 830 first-hand accounts. In the 1940s, Louisa E. Rhine conducted her own study involving the collection and collation of 8000 case reports (24). Only 10-20% of reports involve apparitions of dead people.

If the apparition appears while the witness is going to sleep, it occurs during the hypnagogic state (25), while waking up, it occurs during the hypnopompic state, and when fully awake it appears in the eidetic state (13).

Characteristics

The core experience is the perception of a visual image, be it a person or an animal, but not a non-living object. It is not considered an ESP experience. It seems "real" and appears and disappears spontaneously. It occurs to a sane person (note that the hallucinations of psychotic persons are mainly auditory, though not all auditory hallucinations indicate psychosis) (21).

The following secondary features are only found in some cases. Sound, touch, feelings or telepathy are associated. It can be seen simultaneously by a group, but often not all persons see it. It can pass through walls,

locked doors or strings stretched across the path. It glides rather than walks. Physical activity is witnessed (e.g., banging of doors, or ringing of bells). It moves independently of the witness (12,18,21). Objective data (e.g., temperature measures of supposed cold spots near ghosts, or photographs of ghosts) are rare but viewed with skepticism.

The culture and psychology of the witness can explain some features (e.g., symbolic actions, purpose and facial expressions). The content of modern ghost reports differs from those of the Victorian period, medieval Europe or Classical Greece (9): for example, ghosts wearing chains are rare these days. Visions of the Virgin Mary are common in Catholic countries (4). Evans points to the diversity of entity reports in folklore (8).

Apparitions and hallucinations (both external projections) differ from imagery (perceived internally). Unlike hallucinations, apparitions are said never to indicate psychopathology, and they are considered to convey veridical data (verifiable data that could only be obtained from an external source). In practice, the distinction between an apparition, hallucination and imagery is blurred. Rhine believed there is a continuum between an apparition (seen within sensory range) and an ESP vision (seen outside sensory range) (24). Evans (8) places the apparition in the broader context of the "entity experience".

Categories

Apparitions of the dead (ghosts) are usually associated with a particular building (haunting). Visitations can continue sporadically, over several years. Apparitions of the living or dying are of two types. A crisis apparition is where the witness supposedly sees a figure of another person (often a

relative or friend) at another locality. It is seen within 12 hours of the actual time of the traumatic event. An experimental apparition is deliberately produced. For example, a psychic goes "out-of-body" to another location to contact a target, who then sees an apparition, or a shaman sends a tulpa (thought form) to prosecute a sinning tribesperson (17). Evans distinguishes specific entities (e.g., Aunt Agnes), stereotyped (such as the Virgin Mary) and generalised (such as UFO visitors) (8).

Apparitions are most often reported by "fantasy-prone" persons (30), the 4% of the population who are good hypnotic subjects, have vivid imagery skills, and who report a wide range of other psychic experiences.

Explanations

a) Misperceptions

The report has little merit, being based on distortions of perception (e.g., because of poor light and/or short duration), and on emotional exaggerations. Hoaxes are uncommon, except for ghost photographs.

b) Imagery or Hallucination Hypothesis

The witness, often psychic or a suggestible person, unconsciously generates an apparition (or tulpa, or thought form) as a response to suppressed needs or beliefs. The source of the impressions would be the conscious or unconscious mind of the witness, or more speculatively, archetypal images from the "collective unconscious" (8). An old variant is the model of Gurney (1886) and Tyrrell (1953), now called the super-ESP hypothesis; the apparition is at least partly composed of telepathic data that is then projected out from the mind of the witness. Louisa Rhine found that input of data from outside was unnecessary in all but one of 8000 reports; apparitions were hallucinations created totally within the mind (24).

c) Survival Hypothesis

A "spirit" or "soul" remains at the locality after the death of the material body. The witness is seeing an agent that exists independently of, and generally out of awareness of, the mind of the witness. This model of Myers (1903) has recently been promoted by Gauld (11). A variant is the "survival of fragments" model;

apparitions are "lifeless fragments" (i.e., "static images void of consciousness").

No single theory fits all cases; each case must be examined on its merits - (a) and (b) fit most cases. The evidence for (c) is often anecdotal and based on personal experience; it is difficult to prove scientifically, although Osiris has claimed success (21).

Tests using fake ghosts

Misperceptions are very common. Cornell covered himself in a white sheet, and unexpectedly walked across the stage of a packed cinema (5). A show of hands revealed that at least 32% of the audience (size not stated) did not see the "ghost" at all. When members of the audience later volunteered for interviews, their descriptions varied widely. Only three persons of those interviewed accurately described "a figure dressed in a white sheet".

Hallucinations

"Hallucination" was originally defined in terms of psychoses (e.g., schizophrenia and epilepsy). However, it is now evident that normal people also report them (1,10,27). Vitamin deficiency (lack of sunlight) may perhaps be a cause of the high incidence of ghost reports in Iceland (42% of the population; ref. 21). Eidetic imagery is said to occur as the imaginary playmates of up to 10-20% of children (13), but to be much rarer in adults. In one survey (23), 47% of 293 elderly people (mean age 75) reported hallucinations of their deceased spouse; 14% included visual sightings - the other 33% involving feelings, hearing, touching and speaking to the spouse. Professional persons, a happy marriage, and the first 10 years after widowhood were the best predictors of apparitions. In another survey (3), 29% of 150 persons (mean age 77) reported visual hallucinations. About half of the hallucinators had cataracts or poor eyesight, compared to only 18% of the non-hallucinators. Few elderly people tell others about the apparitions through fear of ridicule; this is a matter of health concern.

Ruth's apparitions

Ruth was persecuted by the apparition of her father who raped her when she was ten

(26,27). Ruth learnt to summon and dismiss it, and other apparitions, at will. Ruth (but not the therapist) could see an apparition; both could not see it on a video screen nor hear it on tape. Ruth twice produced apparitions seen by others. When Ruth produced an apparition in front of a screen, her EEG brain electrical pattern showed that the apparition blocked the screen behind it. This test confirmed Ruth's belief that she was seeing a "real" apparition rather than it being an hysterical hallucination. Ruth was eidetic, a good hypnotic subject, and very traumatised. Similar apparitions, however, are reported by fantasy-prone persons over-involved in some activity. Dickens was plagued by them as he wrote his novels (14). David-Neel created her own tulpa of a monk after instruction in Tantric Buddhism (16). Hill created apparitions of famous people to help him become a millionaire (15). Estabrooks used auto-suggestion to create a bear apparition; it became so lifelike he at times mistook it for a real bear - it jumped out at him from dark corners (7). "Sitter groups" of non-psychic, non-spiritualistic persons, in the absence of a "spirit control", have produced raps from a self-created ghost (the Philip experiment, refs 2,22). This ability to create apparitions is a coping mechanism of therapeutic value.

Haunted houses

An imagery/hallucination model applied less well to haunted houses because successive occupants supposedly see and feel the ghost. In part, this may be due to suggestion. Or, perhaps some factor related to the locality, such as an electromagnetic effect, is involved.

Psychic detection of ghosts

Detection of ghosts in haunted houses by psychics is not very effective. In one haunted house (28), one of nine psychics (Eileen Garrett) claimed there was no ghost. Only two picked the same ghost locality as did the residents, and only four chose the same personality. In another house (20), three of six psychics reported the same ghost as the residents, but one of eight controls marginally did (the controls looked at a floor plan, but did not visit the house). In a third house (19), two of four psychics and five of eight skeptics who visited all got similar results. Only two psychics and no skeptics gave the same results as the

witnesses. The results probably reflect, at least in part, common preconceptions of what a ghost would look like, or where it would be.

Supernatural assault

Supernatural assault is a descriptive term, with no paranormal connotation, for a person in bed who experiences fear and paralysis (unable to move because of the fear), a "presence" or a dark apparition bending over the bed, a pressure on the chest, and (sometimes) partial suffocation, choking or restricted breathing. The person is awake and accurately perceives the environment (16).

These basic elements are independent of culture; but culture determines how it is described (or withheld). It has been called; "Old Hag" (Newfoundland); "incubus experience"; "psychic attack"; "devil encounter"; and "sleep paralysis". Apart from hauntings, the experience is a central feature of some poltergeist, near-death (NDE), out-of-body (OBE) and UFO ("men in black") reports. It is possibly responsible for legends about demons, witches and vampires. Until 1700, the word "nightmare" (from Anglo-Saxon words meaning "night crusher") had this meaning. Its meaning then shifted to include bad dreams. "Nightmare" today is a general term for any bad dream. The experience, however, is not a dream nor a "night terror" (a sudden awakening with a loud scream).

About 23% of 93 university students, all Newfoundlanders (from an isolated culture) reported the experience. The experience mostly happened once or occasionally. Less common were "runs" of frequent attacks. It is not correlated with medical history except that a narcoleptic person is the most susceptible (16). Narcolepsy is sudden onset of sleep during the daytime, producing paralysis and hypnagogic hallucinations. Hufford describes the psychological state as "sleep paralysis with a type of hypnagogic hallucination". The pressure on the chest does not suggest a sexual trauma (16) but the experience can cause anxiety and hysteria.

Sensed presences

The person reporting a "presence" feels that a "supernatural influence" or "guardian angel" is

at hand. The presence is either seen as an apparition or just felt. It can be vivid or subtle, sustained or transient, and stable or variable. Suedfeld states the experience differs from daydreams, hypnagogic imagery and mirages. There is no evidence of mental breakdown. The experience is probably an adaptive reaction that helps the person cope with an abnormal (hazardous, monotonous, exhausting, uncontrollable or threatening) situation (29). "Abnormal" includes solitary sailors, polar or mountain explorers, and survivors of traumatic episodes such as shipwrecks or air crashes. However, any situation involving, for example, monotony, isolation, low temperatures, strong chilly winds, starvation, exhaustion or life-threatening danger may trigger the experience, as may religious ceremonies (as in Spiritualist "guides"). All these can involve a persistent monotony of physical or social stimuli. Added to this may be the effects of unanticipated stress.

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The AIPR advocates use of the scientific method. Psychic experiences should be studied in the same way as other human experiences. Evidence should be evaluated accurately and compassionately. The AIPR wishes to place psychic phenomena into the broader context of experience, health and illness. The AIPR does not hold any specific corporate or religious beliefs.

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Psychology and Parapsychology
Dr. Lance Storm: University of Adelaide

Email: lance.storm@adelaide.edu.au

Lance Storm earned a B.A. (Honours) in psychology (1998) and a Ph.D. in parapsychology (2002) at the University of Adelaide, South Australia. He has published in Psychological Bulletin, the Journal of Parapsychology, Journal of Scientific Exploration, the Jungian journal Quadrant, and elsewhere. He is a full member of the Parapsychological Association, and the Australian Institute of Parapsychological Research, Inc., of whose journal the Australian Journal of Parapsychology he is current editor. In 2003, he was awarded the Gertrude R. Schmeidler Student of the Year Award by the Parapsychology Association for work in parapsychology, and in 2007 the Parapsychology Foundation awarded him the Frances P. Bolton Fellowship. In 2012, he was awarded the Outstanding Contribution Award by the Parapsychology Association. He co-edited two books with Dr. Michael A. Thalbourne: Parapsychology in the Twenty-First Century (2005), and The Survival of Human Consciousness (2006), and he edited the book Synchronicity: Multiple Perspectives on Meaningful Coincidence (2008). He is the author of two books: The Enigma of Numbers (2008) and A Parapsychological Investigation of the Theory of Psychopraxia (2010), he co-authored, with Dr. Adam Rock, the book Shamanism and Psi (2011), and he co-edited, with Dr. Adam Rock, the book In Search Of Psi (2014). As a Research Fellow, he conducts parapsychological research in the Brain and Cognition Centre in the School of Psychology, University of Adelaide.

Neurophysiology and Parapsychology
Dr. Vladimir Dubaj: President, Australian Parapsychological Research Association (APRA)

Email: vdubaj@gmail.com or phone: 0415 747 784

Vladimir Dubaj earned his B.Sc. (honours) in Neurophysiology at Monash University, Victoria and a PhD in Biomedical Instrumentation/Optics at Swinburne

University. He has been involved with research in a range of areas, including the effects of mobile phone radiation on memory formation to modifying brain processes using magnetic fields with a technique called Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS). He was a postdoctoral fellow working in the field of neuroscience at Monash University. Through APRA, he has a keen parallel interest in investigating ghosts and haunting phenomena as well as poltergeist activity.

Investigative Parapsychology and Psychology
Colin Mitchell: Adelaide / Melbourne

Email: colinmitchell9@yahoo.com.au or
phone: 0409 615 924

Colin is a B.A. graduate and author of a number of peer-reviewed articles on parapsychological themes. He has a long history in field investigations, and is particularly interested in investigating poltergeist activity and hauntings. He is a specialist consultant for the Australian Journal of Parapsychology.

Investigative Parapsychology
Robb Tilley: Sydney

Phone: (02) 9816 4279

Robb is a businessman with considerable experience investigating poltergeist activity and hauntings.

AIPR Certificate Courses

The AIPR offers four courses in parapsychology:

The AIPR Certificate in Parapsychology and the AIPR Advanced Certificate in Parapsychology. These two online courses give students an academic education in the field of parapsychology by providing a comprehensive understanding and awareness of, and evidence for, paranormal phenomena. To find out more, [click here](#).

The AIPR Certificate in Experiential Parapsychology. This course is run for groups of students who like to experience psychic phenomena directly. The emphasis is on having fun; hands-on doing psychic things. There are no exams or written assignments. This course is run in Sydney, Australia. To find out more, [click here](#): AIPR Experiential Course.

Poltergeist Disturbances and Hauntings. Almost everyone has a 'ghost' story involving paranormal phenomena. This course is run in Sydney, Australia. To find out more, [click here](#): Poltergeist and Haunting.

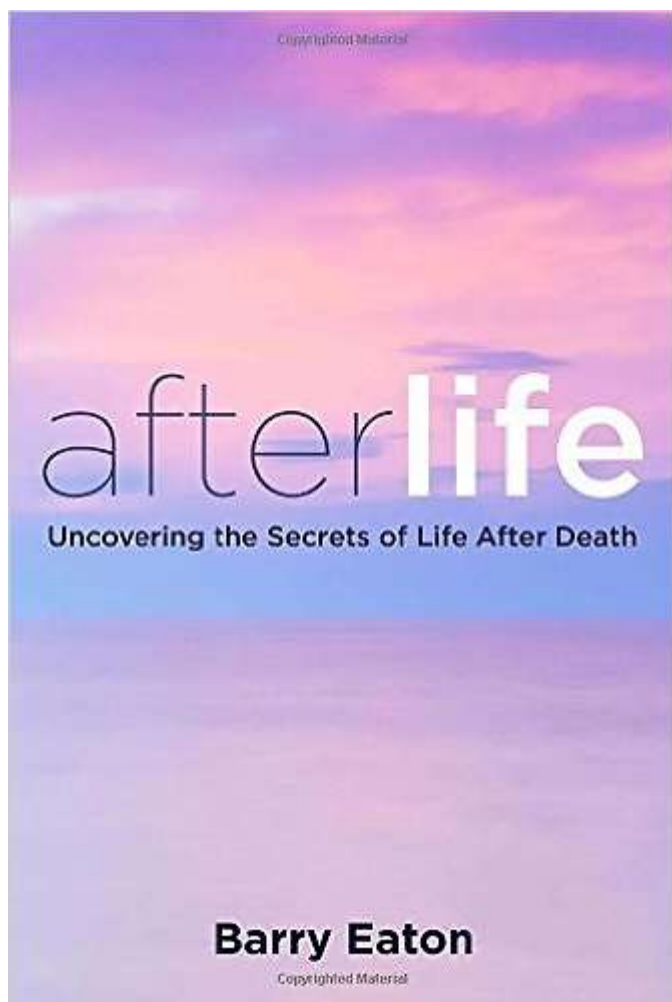
Contact AIPR

For general and media enquiries, contact Robb Tilley, Public Officer, at anniej@ozemail.com.au

If you have any questions about the Certificate courses run by the AIPR, please contact the course administrator Dr. Lance Storm at lance.storm@adelaide.edu.au



Aussie Paranormal Book Corner



Afterlife: Uncovering the Secrets of Life After Death Paperback – August 15, 2013 by Barry Eaton

For the thousands of people who loved To Heaven and Back, Heaven is for Real, and Proof of Heaven, a warm and detailed account of life between lives and our lives to come.

What happens when someone dies? What does it feel like? What exactly is the light at the end of the tunnel? Is reincarnation real? And if so, do spirits have any influence over their lives to come?

Based on his own amazing experiences communicating with those who have passed over, Barry Eaton answers these questions about the spirit world, and many, many more. Taking the reader on a journey through the realm of the spirit, the author details the whole process of crossing into the next life, from the journey “home,” to adapting to new living conditions in the afterlife, and even delving into what kinds of activities will be available there, and how we can be prepared for our own personal journey.

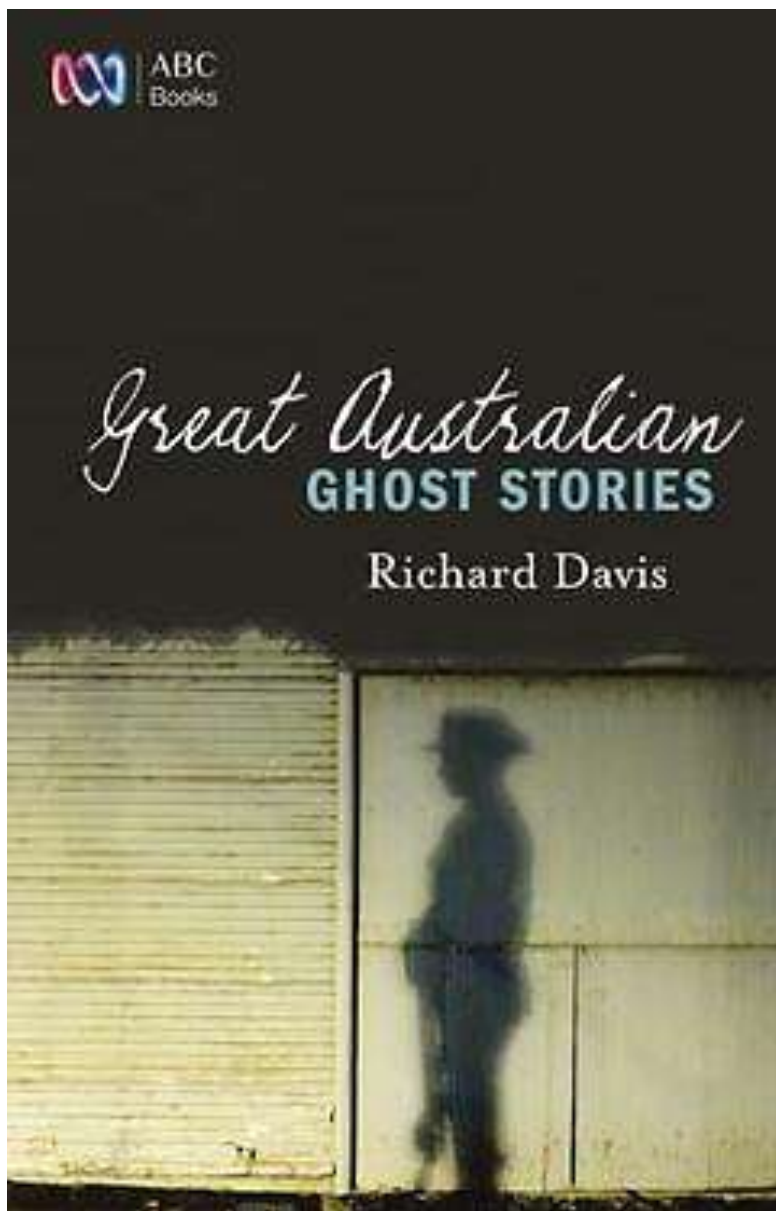
This book will give hope, alleviate fear, and provide comfort for anyone who has questions or concerns about life after death.

About the Author

Psychic Medium Barry Eaton arrived in the psychic world over two decades ago. After completing an astrology course which touched on tarot reading – Barry found himself being drawn further and further into mediumship. To quote Barry “it was like a duck to water”.

Barry already had a radio profile in talk-back commercial radio and over time introduced more and more topics related to spiritual development, psychic phenomena and psychic readings. His passion for this area grew and he eventually took to the stage with Psychic Medium’s Ezio de Angelis, Kate Barnes and Numerologist Anne.

Barry has studied in all different areas and then his mediumship ability was sharpened after the passing of his partner. And then in 2012 he studied further at the Arthur Findlay College in the UK.



Great Australian Ghost Stories by Richard Davis

Australia has a rich history of ghost sightings and spooky tales, from the time of European settlement until today - and they are all here in GREAT AUSTRALIAN GHOST STORIES. From gore-spattered convicts and elegant women out of our colonial past to the mysterious ghost lights of the outback and angry poltergeists that wreak havoc on modern homes, Australia seems to be teeming with the restless spirits of our ancestors. You'll meet a wide cross section of them in this far-reaching collection of stories drawn from all the Australian states and covering two centuries of our nation's history. Some ghosts are vengeful, some aloof, others mysterious, sad, kind, wistful or amusing, but all share one quality - they're scary - and their stories are hair-raising. You'll join a terrified young couple on a Ferris wheel when a spectre appears inside their cage, you'll learn about Australia's most famous ghost and visit Australia's most notorious haunted house where icy hands gripped the throats of unsuspecting visitors.

You'll meet a ghost made famous by Henry

Lawson, discover what 'the haunted dunny' means to the people of a village in the Barossa Valley and share in the terror of a medical student when a cadaver comes back from the dead and takes up residence in the student's laptop. So, dear reader, if you have the courage, make sure the doors and windows are locked, settle in your favourite chair, keep a blanket handy (for when your blood runs cold) and join Richard Davis on this remarkable journey behind the veil that separates the mortal from the eternal - right here in our own back yard.

About The Author

Richard was born and educated in Melbourne. He has had a life-long interest in writing which he describes as his only useful talent. On leaving school Richard pursued a thirty year career in commerce, married and raised a family. 'I never stopped writing,' he says, 'but my writing didn't pay the bills or pay off the mortgage.' It was not until he reached his mid-forties that Richard took up full-time writing and since then he has produced a steady stream of books – both popular and academic.

The popular books have included two collections of Australian ghost stories, the most recent, Great Australian Ghost Stories published last year by ABC Books. He explains, 'I love collecting and writing ghost stories – it's a fascinating genre and fortunately readers enjoy reading them as much as I enjoy writing them.'



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Psychic & Mediumship Development Circle



**** PSYCHIC & MEDIUMSHIP DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE****

We all have natural psychic abilities. Learn to Awaken Your Psychic & Mediumship skills at the Medium & Psychic Development Circle. Being a member of a psychic development circle is an excellent way to increase your psychic abilities and skills. A psychic & mediumship development circle contains a group of people who are all interested in improving their natural psychic abilities such as clairvoyance, psychometry, telepathy, mediumship, telekinesis, energy healing, and more. Tap into the power of your psychic intuitive abilities and make them work for you in all areas of your personal and business life!

These classes will be facilitated by Janine Donnellan from SOL Illumination (formerly Soul Searchers Spiritual Centre)

Classes are conducted on a fortnightly basis (5 nights a term).

Where: Sylvania Cottage, Venetia Street, Sylvania 2224. The cottage is on the corner of Venetia & Holt Street. There is plenty of allocated parking in Holt Street.

Dates: Fortnightly on Tuesday nights (9th February, 23rd February, 8th March, 22nd March, 5th April 2016)

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

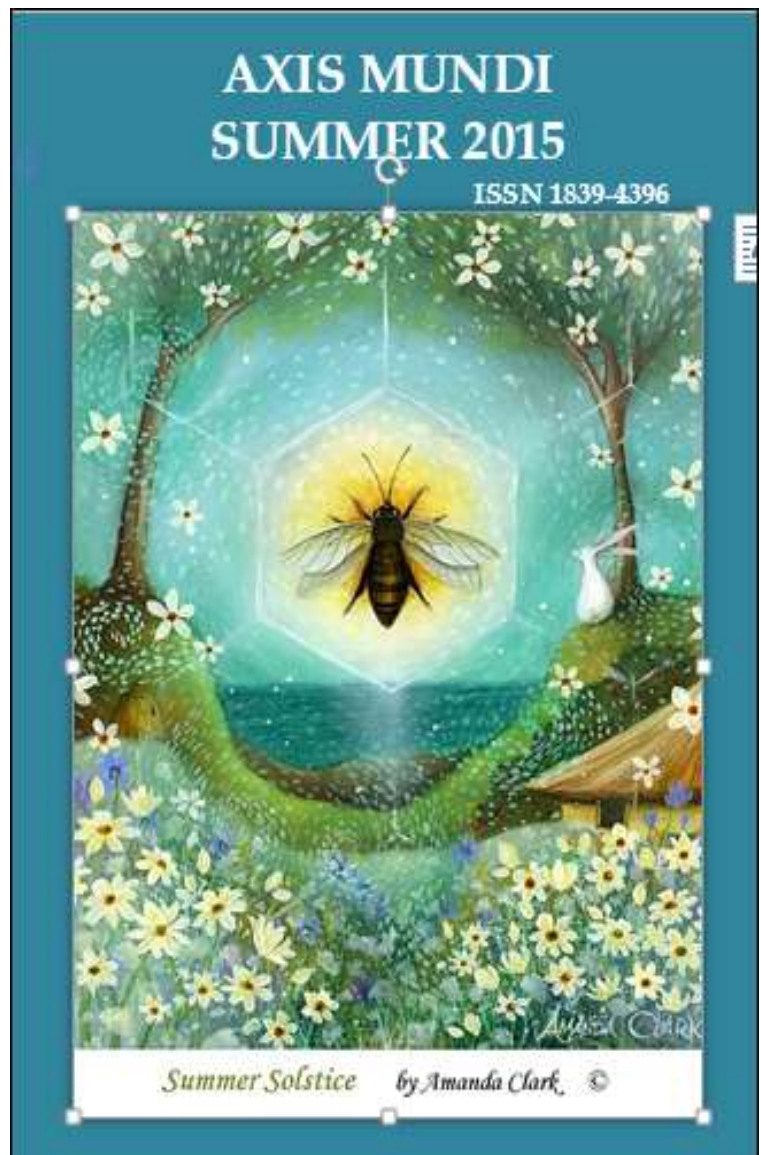
Cost: \$180 per term

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL ~ Please contact Janine on 0408 025 268 to make your booking. A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 is required for all bookings and can be paid via this link <http://illumination.spheresoflight.com.au/mediumship-psychic-development-circle/>

Welcome to "Axis Mundi" ISSN 1839-4396

The Axis Mundi is a FREE online magazine, produced on a quarterly basis, which provides topical information to keep you up to date on news and developments in the Australian Pagan community. Subscribers are notified by email each quarter when a new edition is ready. In addition to our usual announcements on upcoming activities and events, the Axis Mundi contains articles and information that correspond to a seasonal theme and highlight the rhythms and cycles of the natural world and our lives. Your suggestions, comments and contributions are strongly encouraged. It is through your active participation that this online magazine will grow and develop into a publication that will empower you on your journey through all realms of possibilities personal, spiritual, and magical.

The Latin term, axis-mundi, literally means the axis of the world. Our logo expresses a shamanic point of connection between sky and earth where the four compass directions meet. At this point travel and correspondence is made between higher and lower realms and is reflected in the concept of 'as above so below'. In the context of our magazine it is meant to define a group that comes together from various ideologies and shares spiritual ideas, knowledge and experiences and is in a process of constant evolution.



Click on the magazine cover to see the latest issue

SOuL Searchers

Centre for Paranormal Research and Investigations

Soul Searchers is so much more than a paranormal investigation team! The Soul Searchers website is your one stop place for all things paranormal. We provide:

- Information and articles about our investigations & research
- We conduct training, workshops and paranormal meetups
- We produce a quarterly paranormal magazine
- We conduct private investigations in the Sutherland Shire, Sydney.

Soul SPI is our specially trained paranormal investigation team and during our private investigations we conduct in-depth evaluations of spiritual activity from our own unique perspective in order to resolve the concerns of the client and to assist grounded souls move on to higher realms and to further our own understanding of the nature of spirits and the afterlife.

Our mission is to investigate all logical explanations of environments that are associated with paranormal activity. We use a common sense scientific approach to all our investigations but also have an open mind to all theories & methodologies. Our SOuL.SPI. team is composed of individuals with a variety of talents both scientific and psychic, including skeptics and believers.

For general inquiries or to request an investigation and clearing in your home please contact Janine, at 0408 025 268 or email soulspi007@gmail.com Website: <http://soulsearchers.spheresoflight.com.au/>



SOuL Searchers Workshops



I am pleased to announce that SOuL Searchers will be conducting some exciting workshops this year.

In addition to our comprehensive weekend Parapsychology and Advanced Parapsychology Certificate course we will be offering individual modules of the parapsychology courses as stand-alone workshops so that people can attend those modules that they have an interest in or for those students who would like to do the certificate spread out over a period of time, which is an affordable option.

We will also be providing workshops on Space Clearing and regular paranormal meet ups and discussion groups.

New exciting information will be published on our website shortly!

Website: <http://soulsearchers.spheresoflight.com.au/>

Parapsychology Certificate Course





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April	12 March



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