

SAA 2024 AGM President's Report

I sometimes think I could send in the same President's report for the annual meeting and nobody would realise. Much of the substance is the same, last year, this year, next year.

This is because of our purpose (which has basically been consistent since we kicked off in 1992), and our spiritual material which is essentially Swedenborg and his writings, but of course, not exclusively that, because Swedenborg's approach is very universal. And this gets annual varieties and changes, like talks to groups such as the Theosophists over a good number of years and quite a few other groups I forget whom. I might also add the online and physical meetings which wonderfully roll on through the years and bring joy and depth to those taking part. No two meetings are ever the same.

But the day to day level for the Swedenborg Association work is full of changes and surprises. Who knows who is going to walk in through the Roseville centre's doors and with what wish, need and excitement. And I get that nobody ever leaves disappointed, not only with the coffee, friendship and chat, but with some new 'take' on some spiritual approach which is about the best you can come across and is accepting and encouraging to all seekers. Basically we 'namasté' people from a Western perspective.

Let's give some thanks to the people involved. First of all to each member of the Swedenborg Association of Australia for choosing to be part of the entity we are and in your own way and where you are, show the effect in ourselves of having a whole spiritual outlook on our existence. This is something that individually we probably never realise we give out to others, and that's great. May Swedenborg helps you on your special way.

Individually, thank you to Joe Vandermeer, running the centre which houses the SAA, and stimulating some new possibilities to try out while maintaining the ones there are. We only know the tip of the iceberg of Joe's activity which can go into the small hours at times. Thank you to Liz Kemmis for many years direct help and input at Roseville, doing a lot of practical and caring things, always her beautiful smile. Liz is now in Victoria but still doing things as we do these online days.

Thank you to the SAA Committee, the eight of us, for taking on the running and the legal responsibilities of an organised spiritual body. Thank you to Ruth Duckworth who continues to create, gather and accomplish beautiful meaningful in-colour issues, four each year. Anybody reading this report is invited to contribute something written to Ruth (ruth@duckworth.me) any time inspiration or experience fills you.

Just on Candela, we recently got hit for using illustrations we are not entitled to, which led several people, mainly Joe though, to deal with the issue, seek professional help, and even remove from the website about 100 past issues so that we don't get strapped for more bucks in some fine. Again, thank you, it has all been sorted.

Thank you to Wayne Kasmar for dealing with secretarial matters and minutes, and also to Michael Chester for dealing with the dollars as treasurer which also includes donations that the SAA feels it can make to other Swedenborg organisations. Michael also - wonderfully - finds interesting articles for much of our website activity and even documents the number of people hitting our sites so we gain knowledge of interest.

The existence of a Swedenborg presence in Australia matters. It justifies us entirely, and we "stay open" so that God can bring whatever along and make connections. Let that long continue!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian Duckworth". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Julian Duckworth, SAA President